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ESTABLISHED 1987

Finance Officials Are Confident Pact Will Support Dollar

WASHINGTON — Finance officials of leading industrialized nations voiced confidence Sunday that the U.S. dollar would remain steady after they reaffirmed an agreement to support the currency at current levels.

The vice chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, Mervyn D. Kaplan, said that the foreign exchange market would remain steady after they reaffirmed an agreement to support the currency at current levels.



Crew members of the Iran Ajr, the vessel attacked by U.S. helicopters in the Gulf, being welcomed in Tehran on Sunday.

Weinberger Sees No Need to Use War Powers Act

By Molly Moore Washington Post Service WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger on Sunday said he would veto a plan requiring congressional approval for continuing the escort operation for more than 90 days after enactment of the legislation.

Bonn's EMS Partners Seek Larger Economic Say-So

By Reginald Dale International Herald Tribune PARIS — The coming weeks and months should see the first real test of whether West Germany will continue to dominate European economic policymaking through its leadership of the European Community's eight-nation currency bloc.

Kiosk Killing Roils Israeli Cabinet

JERUSALEM (NYT) — Israeli cabinet ministers exchanged heated words Sunday as they discussed how to respond to the killing of an Israeli soldier who was stabbed to death by a Palestinian last Thursday as he waited for a ride in northern Israel.

MONDAY Q&A



Peter Cortier, a West German who is secretary-general of the North Atlantic Assembly, gives a cautious welcome to the U.S.-Soviet arms agreement. Page 2.

U.S. Officials Divided Over Proposal By Soviet to Negotiate Space Defense

Michael R. Gordon New York Times Service WASHINGTON — Senior Reagan administration officials, preparing for the next round of high-level arms talks in Moscow, are sharply divided over whether to negotiate with the Soviets over the scope of testing a missile-defense system in space.

Included were limits on the brightness, or power, of lasers, the speed of interceptors and the size of mirrors that might reflect some laser beams, among other limits.

U.S. Attack on Ship: A Lift for Arabs

But Envoys Say Caution of Gulf Nations Won't Change

By Patrick E. Tyler Washington Post Service MANAMA, Bahrain — The American helicopter attack on an Iranian mine-laying vessel has bolstered the confidence of Arab nations already working closely with Washington, but is less likely to change the cautious diplomatic attitudes of Arab leaders.

U.S. Agencies at Odds Over Purchase of Soviet Space Photos

By William J. Broad New York Times Service NEW YORK — An agency of the federal government is seeking to buy close-up photographs of the Earth taken by Soviet space satellites, a proposal that is likely to stir controversy.

Book Lifts Corner of Veil on William Casey's CIA

By Haynes Johnson Washington Post Service WASHINGTON — While he was director of central intelligence, William J. Casey circumvented normal CIA channels and personally arranged for the Saudi Arabian intelligence service to undertake three covert operations, including a Middle East assassination attempt that went awry, killing 80 people when a car bomb exploded in a Beirut suburb on March 8, 1985, according to a book by Bob Woodward, an assistant managing editor of The Washington Post.

Mr. Casey was "astounded" that "such a comparatively small amount of money could do so great a job," Mr. Woodward reports. Mr. Casey's secret arrangement with the Saudis grew out of his desire to create a pre-emptive anti-terrorist capability for the United States. At first he sought to do this inside the Central Intelligence Agency, but his deputy at the time, John N. McMahon, a career CIA employee, opposed the idea, arguing that it brought the agency too close to assassination, which President Ronald Reagan by executive order had expressly banned.

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William J. Casey, less than a year before his death.

WORLD BRIEFS

Zhao Says He Doesn't Want Party Post

BEIJING (UPI) — Zhao Ziyang, speaking a month before he is expected to be named the permanent Communist Party leader in China, said in an interview broadcast Sunday that he does not want the job because he is better suited to handle economic affairs.

Conservatives Back Anti-Terror Effort

BERLIN (AFP) — President Ronald Reagan and the Soviet leader, Mikhail S. Gorbachev, must put the fight against international terrorism on the agenda for their next summit meeting, a 27-nation gathering of conservative political leaders said in West Berlin on Saturday.

Shevardnadze Begins Latin Tour

RIO DE JANEIRO (NYT) — The Soviet foreign minister, Eduard A. Shevardnadze, has arrived in Rio to begin a regional tour intended to improve Soviet relations with Latin America.

Tamil Leader Dies After 12-Day Fast

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (NYT) — A Tamil separatist leader has died after a 12-day fast to protest the Indian-Sri Lankan peace accord.

India Arrests 46 in Widow's Suicide

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — Indian police arrested 46 people Sunday who were believed to be connected with the ritual death of a young widow on her husband's funeral pyre.

TRAVEL UPDATE

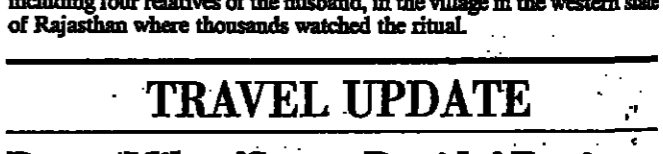
Rome-Milan 'Super-Rapido' Begins

ROME (AP) — The first of four new "super-rapido" trains left here Sunday morning and reached Milan 4 hours and 55 minutes later.

This Week's Holidays

Banking hours and government services will be closed or curtailed in the following countries and their dependencies this week because of national and religious holidays:

DOONESBURY



IT'S A SPECIAL PLACE WHERE PEOPLE... ONLY 2.5 WEEKS PER HOME... APPROVE OF LUBRICATION... CAN'T GET ENOUGH LUBRICATION... YES, IT'S...

U.S. Tourist Killed in Paris

PARIS — Three persons, including an American tourist, were killed in a pistol and machine-gun attack at a bar here, the police said Sunday.

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Popal Vis

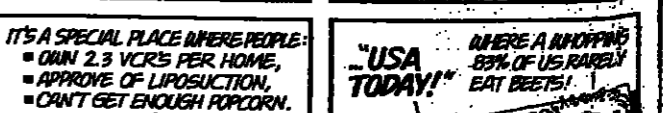
By Dennis Heve... NEW YORK — A week after he ended his visit to the United States, Pope John Paul II is expected to have had little contact with the press during his stay.

Europe Without Frontiers

The 31st Gordon Bennett Balloon Race will be held October 3-4, 1987 in Seefeld (Tirol) Austria.

Sponsored by the International Herald Tribune, which is celebrating its centennial year, 13 balloons will participate representing 6 countries (Austria, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and USA.)

Admission is free. For additional information contact: Fremdenverkehrsverband, A-6100 Seefeld/Tirol; Telephone: (43) 5212/23 13 + 23 16; Telex: 534452.



INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE CENTENNIAL

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Double-Zero Agreement: One European's Cautious Welcome

The security outlook for Western Europe, as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Warsaw Pact move to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear arms, was in the forefront of discussion last week in Oslo at the annual meeting of the North Atlantic Assembly, a body grouping 200 members of parliament from all 16 NATO nations.

Q. Do you object to the contents of the planned treaty? A. No, I think it's balanced — we eliminate a category of weapons on both sides. True, some experts and conservative politicians thought we should have started with other disarmament steps, for example tackling the enormous Soviet advantage in conventional forces.

MONDAY Q&A

Q. What do you expect to happen next? A. Soviet leaders, for the first time, have started admitting that there are disparities in East-West troop strength in Europe, in other words, acknowledging their superiority instead of insisting that the two sides' forces are equal.

Q. What is the main impact on Europeans of the proposed U.S.-Soviet plan to remove intermediate and shorter-range nuclear arms on both sides? A. The Western alliance has lost some flexibility in its means and options to carry out our strategy of stopping and therefore deterring Soviet aggression in Europe.

Q. What should European leaders do? A. We have to make it clear to the Soviets and to our own public opinion that they have to withdraw many more troops than we do.

Q. Can NATO deploy some new nuclear systems to plug gaps in our forces or have we in effect given the Soviet Union a veto power over any unilateral military modernization in our alliance in Europe? A. That's a tough question. Clearly, after claiming credit for progress in disarmament, it's going to be hard for politicians to ask for more weapons, conventional or nuclear.

Q. Why did European leaders say so little publicly about possible risks to the way the talks developed? A. Some leaders had reservations about the way in which the agreement took shape, especially going to double zero, so rapidly.

Q. Do the European parliamentarians you see consider the missile agreement as the thin end of the wedge toward loosened U.S. commitment to defending Europe? A. No, not unless it is followed by U.S. troop withdrawals. U.S. troops in Europe matter much more than weapons systems as a sign of U.S. determination.

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Painfully, Young U.S. Jews Get to Know Germans

By Serge Schmemmann New York Times Service BONN — Most of the American Jewish students had come to West Germany with trepidation. Some had been warned by their parents not to go, and others were afraid of their own reactions, but all felt that they had to see for themselves.

Q. What is your main present concern? A. The Western alliance has lost some flexibility in its means and options to carry out our strategy of stopping and therefore deterring Soviet aggression in Europe.

Q. Do you object to the contents of the planned treaty? A. No, I think it's balanced — we eliminate a category of weapons on both sides. True, some experts and conservative politicians thought we should have started with other disarmament steps, for example tackling the enormous Soviet advantage in conventional forces.

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Tunis Court Sentences 7 To Death

TUNIS — A court on Sunday condemned to death seven Islamic fundamentalists who were among 90 charged with trying to overthrow the government of President Habib Bourguiba.

Violence Is Threatened

Steven Greenhouse of The New York Times reported earlier from Tunis: The Tunisian police increased their already tight security this weekend as a group called itself the Caravan of the Martyrs sent a letter to news agencies threatening to respond to any death sentences with violence.

TRAVEL UPDATE

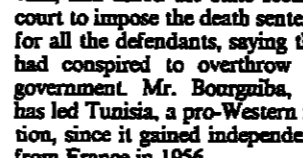
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'I found myself feeling sorry for the German kids who have to live with this. In some ways we're lucky; we came out on the right side.'

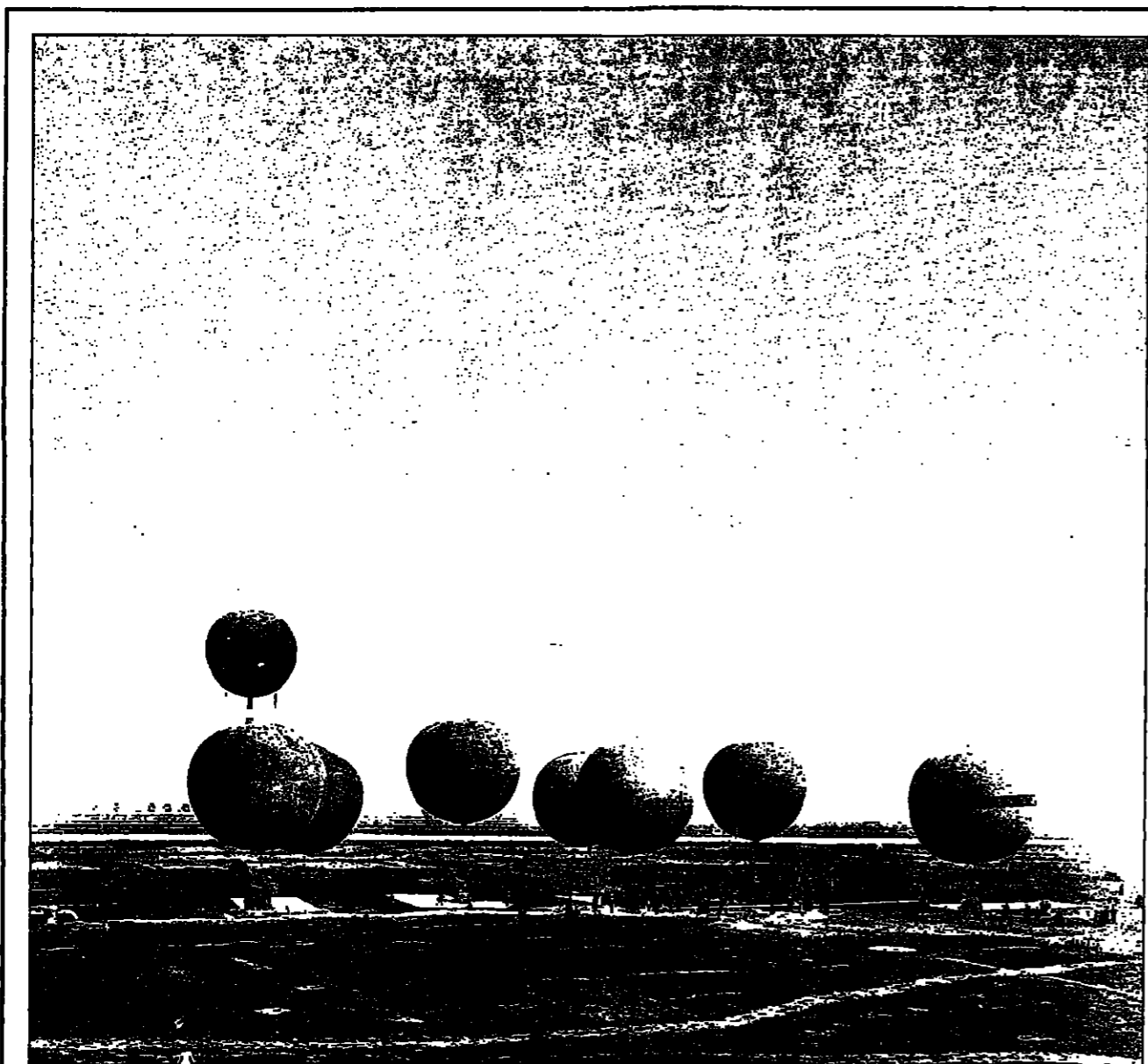
At the end, after two and a half weeks of living with West German families, meeting with students, politicians and German Jews and visiting sites associated with both the glory and the horror of German Jewish history, much of the fear had lifted, even if many of the questions remained.

'Some of the students were worried whether this was an attempt to use them to show that everything is great. "But I don't think that has been the case. They will go back thinking about their host families. Three of them are already referring to their hosts as mother, father, brother or sister."

At a meeting with high school students at Bonn's Beethoven Gymnasium, the talk was about guilt, responsibility and trying to understand. "My grandfather was afraid to speak about it," one young German said. "He didn't want to tell me, he said you didn't live then, so you don't need to know."

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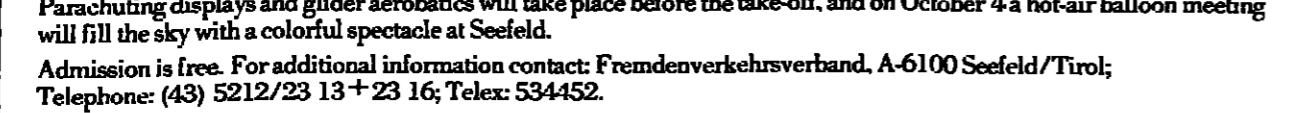
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WORLD BRIEFS

Says He Doesn't Want Party... (1987) ...

ervatives Back Anti-Terror... (1987) ...

ardnadze Begins Latin Tour... (1987) ...

all Leader Dies After 12-Day... (1987) ...

Arrests 16 in Widow's Suit... (1987) ...

TRAVEL UPDATE... (1987) ...

Week's Holidays... (1987) ...

... (1987) ...

AMERICAN TOPICS



... (1987) ...

ARD ON TRIAL — Turning from legal controversies to a literary one, three U.S. Supreme Court justices, from left, Harry A. Blackman, William J. Brennan Jr. and John Paul Stevens, "ruled" in a moot court debate at American University in Washington that William Shakespeare was the likely author of the famous plays and sonnets, not the more worldly Edward De Vere, friend of Queen Elizabeth I and 17th Earl of Oxford.

On Brandeis University Menu: Ham Steak, Shrimp Tetrazzini. Ham steak and shrimp tetrazzini are on the menu this fall at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, and debate has been renewed over what it means to be a Jewish-secularist but secular university, The New York Times reports. The idea is to make Brandeis students who are not Jewish feel more comfortable.

Short Takes. The Connecticut Appellate Court has overturned the conviction of a man who was forced to drive 150-mile (245-kilometer) round trips to court 25 times in three years, only to be repeatedly told that his case had been postponed, before it was heard. Rolf Almgren, 55, a Ridgefield gardener, had been fined \$400 and given a 30-day suspended sentence for disorderly conduct and resisting police officers who had answered a complaint in 1982 that a hotel party Mr. Almgren was giving was too noisy. He said that his constitutional right to a speedy trial had been infringed. The appeals court agreed.

FBI Chief Regarded as Tough and Fair

By Mary Thornton. SAN ANTONIO, Texas — When Judge William Steele Sessions was nominated in July to be the Federal Bureau of Investigation's fourth director, Attorney General Edwin Meese 3d said the White House had sought a "clone" of William H. Webster, the man he is succeeding. The similarities between the two former federal judges, both Republicans, are striking. In Judge Sessions the FBI got a quiet, straight arrow who wins unusual praise from across the political spectrum for his toughness and fairness. On Friday, the Senate voted 90-0 to confirm Judge Sessions, 57, for a 10-year term as FBI director. Asked last July about his reputation as a "West Texas tough guy," Judge Sessions, who was born in Arkansas, smiled as he answered: "I love the accusation, I don't wear a gun belt, and I don't have any cowboy boots to my name. If I'm a West Texas tough guy, it's simply because we have dealt with some very difficult problems out there." Judge Sessions has a reputation for courage. In the early 1980s, he presided over the murder trials of the men who killed Judge John H. Wood Jr., a friend and colleague who was shot in the back as he left home to preside over their drug trial. For the 20 months after the murder, Judge Sessions and his family received 24-hour protection for fear the killers would strike again. Colleagues said he is a "hands-on" type of administrator who is aware of some of the shortcomings of the FBI and will resist any attempts from inside the bureau hierarchy to manipulate him or insulate him from its daily operations. Judge Sessions' strictness and concern for propriety are legendary. In Judge Sessions' courtroom, men wear coats and ties, chewing gum is forbidden, and spectators caught reading newspapers are removed. Ray and LeRoy Jahn, husband and wife prosecutors in the U.S. attorney's office in San Antonio, recall running into Judge Sessions at their house during the Wood murder trial. The Jahns had been friends for more than a decade, but there was no casual conversation that day. Their daughters, born two days apart, were best friends and hugged each other as the parents stood by. The next morning, Judge Sessions dutifully announced in court that the contact with members of the prosecutor's office had occurred. When Judge Sessions was named a U.S. District Court judge in 1974, according to the Jahns, he stopped socializing with prosecutors and defense attorneys, except for bar association functions, to avoid any possible compromise of his judicial neutrality. Those who know him said his strictness is not a manifestation of arrogance or eccentricity. Rather, it reflects Judge Sessions' belief that the federal judicial system is sacred and that defendants deserve the full respect of the court. "He's firm, rule-oriented, strict," said U.S. Magistrate Jamie Boyd. "But he's very compassionate. He may give a strict sentence, but he does so with a bit of sorrow to it." Gerald Goldstein, general counsel of the Texas Civil Liberties Union, added, "I can't think of an incident in which he broadly expanded a defendant's rights, but he has been as fair as any judge I've ever seen." "Even though he was a prosecutor, he doesn't let the government muscle the defendant," Mr. Goldstein said, adding, "If I had a shot of winning, I'd as soon try it there as anywhere in the country." Off the bench, friends and colleagues said, Judge Sessions is a different person. He is described as bright and funny, with broad interests, ranging from mountain climbing, space exploration and the San Antonio Spurs basketball team to reading poetry and playing Scrabble and Monopoly with his family. Every Wednesday at noon, he goes to the Rotary Club. He is far from pretentious. Judge Sessions is often seen mowing his lawn or scrubbing his car, a blue 1969 Chevy Malibu that he bought new. Instead of frequenting fancy restaurants, he most often has lunch at Schilo's delicatessen, near the courthouse, rushing over at what his colleagues call "warp" speed, tilted forward with his arms swinging. In contrast to the somber gray pin-striped suits he regularly wears beneath his judicial robes, Judge Sessions is often spotted after hours in striking plaid trousers that have become legendary. One judicial colleague said the trousers are "so bright that they glow in the dark." Mr. Boyd, the magistrate, added: "When it comes to civil rights, he's extremely liberal. He ordered the El Paso County commissioners to build a new jail and offered to put them in jail if they didn't." The new jail was intended to relieve overcrowding. Judge Sessions also is known in his judicial district for ordering a new prison for San Antonio and a limited busing plan to desegregate the El Paso schools. Judge Sessions has been an avid mountain climber since he was 18, and he canoes. Judge Sessions had polio when he was 16 and acknowledges that he will never be a technically advanced climber. But he said he loves the challenge, and he has made two treks, in 1976 and 1985, up to the 18,000-foot (5,500-meter) level of Mount Everest. The Everest climbs were strenuous enough that he lost 26 pounds (12 kilograms) on his first trip and 15 on the second. Judge Sessions later explained to his neighborhood weekly newspaper that the thought of eggs cooked in yak butter is enough to make anyone lose weight. His quest for challenges led him to apply to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in early 1986 to be one of the civilians chosen for a space flight aboard the shuttle.



William S. Sessions

Papal Visit Didn't Alter U.S. Priests' Views

By Dennis Hevesi. NEW YORK. A week after Pope John Paul II ended his visit to the United States, his pleas for a return to orthodox church teachings in many areas such as birth control and abortion appear to have had little impact, at least according to interviews with a dozen Roman Catholic priests around the country. On matters of personal morality, liberal priests remained unconvinced, conservatives remained adamant and those in between seem to have heard what they wanted to hear among the pope's four dozen homilies and addresses in his 10-day tour of nine U.S. cities. And while priests across the spectrum of thought said they perceived a willingness in John Paul at least to listen to the debate over such issues as priestly celibacy and ordination of women, others said the news media's focus on these questions had obscured the profound message in the pope's pronouncements on other subjects such as social justice. But the Reverend Matthew Didone of Newark, New Jersey, said: "I firmly believe what I believed before, in the positions of the pope, but with much more clarity. The pope has been very firm, which has probably given a clear vision to many Catholics." The interviews were conducted, after the pope's departure, with a dozen priests who participated in a New York Times-CBS News Poll just before the pope's arrival in the United States on Sept. 10. In the original survey, 55 percent of the 855 priests polled said they favored the right of priests to marry and 35 percent were opposed. On ordaining women, 43 percent were in favor and 43 percent were opposed. Forty-six percent of the priests perceived the pope to be more conservative than themselves; 1 percent said he was more liberal, and 51 percent said his views were "much like their own." The Reverend Bernard Gustas of Schenectady, New York, said: "I didn't change my mind about anything. No married priests, no women priests, no abortion. Homosexual activity — I don't go along with that. All of the things he espoused, I go along with." The Reverend James Voelker of East St. Louis, Illinois, said: "Celibacy — I think it should be optional. Ordination of women — I would be for that. With regards to birth control, if people just want to have a good time, I think they need to examine that. But I also think that people who can't afford more children need an option other than abstinence." But even on abortion, where all other respondents firmly supported the pope's position, Father Voelker did not take an absolutist view. "I'm against abortion," he said, "However, in some cases, like rape, incest, you can't make a blanket statement." In the middle, the Reverend Thomas Garthwaite of Arcadia, Wisconsin, agreed with most of the pope's positions. But he allows more room for choice. "I think he was just giving the traditional view," he said. "I don't think he was giving hard and fast rules about the future. I would think he is open to change. He has to give the teaching of the church, you see. But how the individual lives that is a matter of conscience."

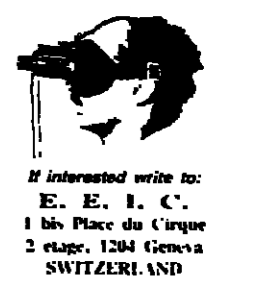
Republicans Think They Can't Lose in '88

By David S. Broder and Haynes Johnson. NAPERVILLE, Illinois — "George Bush is a terrific team man," Ann Hane tells her fellow Republican activists. "He's always there" for local candidates, she adds. "But he has all the crowd appeal of a warm dish of oatmeal — I mean, without the raisins, without sugar, without maple syrup, just oatmeal." It sounds like a real put-down, but, in fact, she is leaning toward supporting Mr. Bush in the March 15 Illinois Republican primary. Adherents of Senator Bob Dole of Kansas and the other four contenders for the 1988 Republican presidential nomination offered similarly unromantic views of their favorites, as 30 precinct captains and volunteer workers for the vaunted Du Page County Republican organization gathered here on two recent evenings to talk politics. These loyal Republicans made it clear that none of the six contestants in the GOP presidential field remotely matched the appeal that President Ronald Reagan has held for them. Their preferences were statistically close to the latest Washington Post-ABC News Poll, which shows Mr. Bush leading among Republican-inclined voters with 46 percent and Mr. Dole in second place with 32 percent. The others trail far back: Representative Jack F. Kemp of New York and the Reverend Pat Robertson, each at 6 percent; former Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. at 3 percent; and former Governor Pierre S. du Pont 4th of Delaware at 1 percent. The comments in Naperville and responses in the nationwide survey reflected ambivalence about the strengths and weaknesses of the Republican field. Strong enthusiasm for any of the candidates is rare. Still, Republicans in Naperville and nationally remain confident about winning the 1988 election for a simple reason: They think that the Democrats are facing a far worse drought of talent. "The Democrats have no real candidates and no big issues," said Ralph Johnson, a retired manufacturing executive and a du Pont supporter. "I don't see how we can lose." That confidence is widely shared. In the Post-ABC News survey, 74 percent of the Republicans, compared with 59 percent of the Democrats, said they thought their party would win the 1988 election. Naperville, one of the bellwether Republican counties in the nation, gave Mr. Reagan 76 percent of its vote in 1984. The conversations in Naperville and the responses to the nationwide survey provide insights into the Republican presidential race, which will begin to take form in the next few weeks as Mr. Robertson, Mr. Bush and Mr. Dole make their formal declarations of candidacy and join Mr. du Pont, Mr. Haig and Mr. Kemp for the first debates of the campaign. Currently, the focus is almost all on Mr. Bush and Mr. Dole. One or the other was the first choice of almost eight of 10 Republicans in the September survey, up from just over six of 10 in June. Republican activists in Naperville, also, list Mr. Bush and Mr. Dole as their top preferences. Overwhelmingly, they rate the two as being the most qualified and most electable. It is similar in the national survey. Mr. Bush is rated qualified by 92 percent of the Republican-inclined voters; Mr. Dole by 82 percent. Mr. Kemp and Mr. Haig are in the low 40s, Mr. Robertson at 22 and Mr. du Pont at 18. The scores for the latter four are lowered by the high numbers of those polled who say that they do not know enough to judge. However, 47 percent say that Mr. Robertson is not qualified, more than double the number who find him qualified. Mr. Robertson also has the dubious distinction of being named by 28 percent of the Republicans as someone they definitely would not consider voting for. Mr. Haig is at 16 percent in that measure. All the others are in single digits. What Republicans are looking for in the next president came over clearly during two nights of discussion. They want experience and proven competence in government. "We need someone like Jerry Ford, who knows how government works," said Paul M. Bauer, a real-estate appraiser, referring to the former president. "I'm torn between George Bush and Bob Dole," he said, adding that "experience is the main quality." That theme of experience and competence in making government work stands in sharp contrast to the anti-Washington, anti-government voter attitudes formed over the last decade. More than any other factor, it accounts for the preference for Mr. Bush and Mr. Dole, the two candidates with the most extensive national governmental resumes. "We need someone who can get along with the House and Senate," one of the GOP regulars remarked. Also working to the advantage of Mr. Bush and Mr. Dole is the perception that they are moderate, mainstream politicians capable of attracting the diverse kinds of voters whose support the minority Republican Party must have to retain control of the White House. "We need a communicator and someone who will work with young people, especially on the problems of education and literacy," said lack of ability to stir audiences. Virtually the same kinds of negatives about them are volunteered by the Du Page County regulars and the national sample of Republican voters. For Mr. Bush, the string of negatives includes: "bland," "boring," "not dynamic," "wishy-washy," "Reagan's shadow" and "preppie image." For Mr. Dole, the greatest problem seems to be the lingering impressions of "that hatched-man image," as one Republican in Naperville put it, stemming from his harsh tactics in 1976, when he was the Republican candidate for vice president. Unfavorable comments about his tendency "to give too many gaudy lines" also are offered. Other negatives volunteered include: "good man but colorless," "opportunist" and "slippery."

'We need a more moderate president; that's where it's swinging. It seems to me we've gone from one extreme to another with Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan.'

— Tim Sellers of Naperville, Illinois, who leans toward Senator Bob Dole

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Advertisement for Finlandia Vodka. It features a bottle of Finlandia Vodka and a glass. Text includes: 'FINLANDIA Vodka of Finland', 'FINLANDIA VODKA', and 'TRADITIONAL SCANDINAVIAN VODKA DISTILLED SINCE 1888'.

Advertisement for Gold. The headline reads: 'Where will you be without gold when the party is over?'. It features a large image of a gold bar and a gold coin. Text includes: 'It was fun while it lasted. And profitable. But as things go up and down, and many indices are now signaling fundamental difficulties in the economy...', 'Why gold? Because as the most precious of metals, the value of gold is intrinsic, and therefore trustworthy.', 'Gold Information Centre 114 B.P. 351 - CH 1211 Geneva 3 - Switzerland', and a large 'GOLD' logo with the tagline 'Money you can trust.'

INTERNATIONAL Herald Tribune

With Moscow in the Gulf

The Reagan administration seems stuck on the cusp of its own ambivalence about Gulf policy. Some days it frets about Iran's assaults on ships and regional stability...

Yes, Link Arms to Peace

Yitzhak Shamir underlines the central consideration that ought to guide arms sales to countries in the Middle East and other troubled regions. Speaking in a Wall Street Journal interview about proposed U.S. sales to Saudi Arabia...

Debt Demands Action

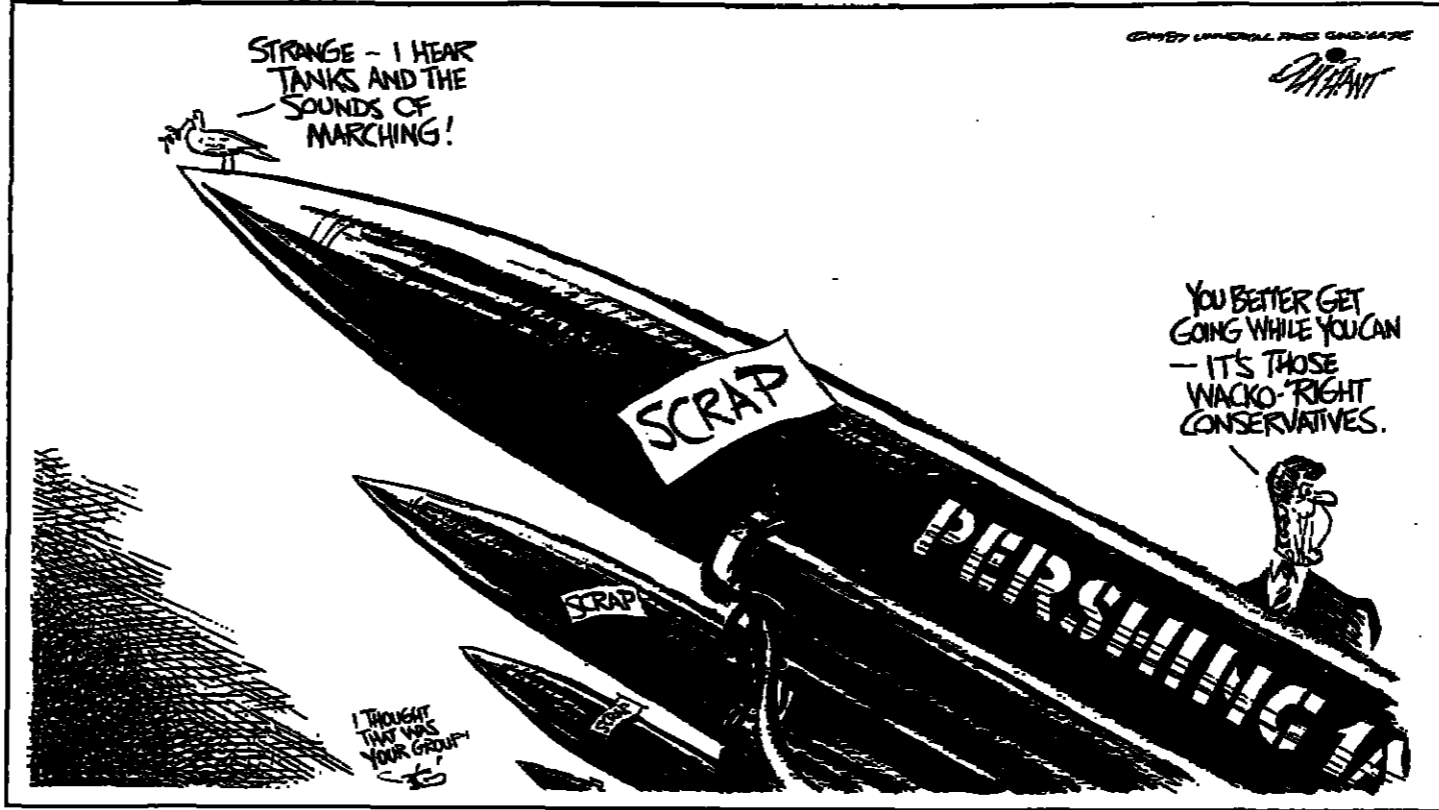
The Reagan administration's new support for a hefty expansion of World Bank lending can help ease the Third World debt crisis, but not a lot and not soon. This menacing overhang, now five years old, demands more effort by creditors and debtors.

Turks Want Democracy

Even years after a military coup, the fourth in the republic's 60-year history, Turkey is still trying to loosen, one by one, the restraints left over from military rule.

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KATHARINE GRAHAM, WILLIAM S. PALEY, ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER Co-Chairmen LEE W. HUEBNER, Publisher JOHN VINCIGUERRA, Executive Editor...



Four Glasnost Standards for Gauging Soviet Change

WASHINGTON — Right now is an excellent time for Americans to begin thinking and talking about a question central to security and foreign policy: How can we decide for ourselves whether the Soviet Union is embarked on permanent reforms that would allow us to enter a new era of trust and cooperation in our relations?

Now for a Serious Response to Third World Debt?

WASHINGTON — As the Third World drowns in debt, 3,000 of the world's financial managers gather in Washington for the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

From Contender to Shocked Victim

WASHINGTON — What gives? Is the press out to prove its power and disprove charges of leftist bias by sabotaging one liberal Democrat after another? No. We in the media are taking seriously our responsibility to deal with the character and competence of potential presidents.

Could You Pass Such an Inspection?

THERE is a new criterion, a new device for weeding out presidential candidates: the self-immolating gaffe. Gaffes occur when a remark or action reaches critical mass in the media.

OPINION

For Habash, The Weight Of Failure

By Jim Hoagland

DAMASCUS — Georges Habash, the radical whose name has been a synonym for terror for nearly two decades, rises stiffly from behind his desk and extends an atrophied right hand in greeting.

The Washington Post

Advertisement for 'Share the secrets of Cardhu' featuring a bottle of whisky and text about its benefits.

For Habash The Weight Of Failure

# Children Recount Brutality by Pretoria

By William Claiborne  
Washington Post Service

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Blinking into glaring television lights and almost speechless with bewilderment, 11-year-old William Mofibedi haltingly told his story of being tortured in a South African jail last year.

cedes two potential milestones in the worldwide campaign to intensify economic sanctions against the Pretoria government.

Nothing draws the heartstrings like the plight of children who are detained and tortured in South African prisons.

— An official of the African National Council

knocked out in a beating by his interrogators and that he was given electric shocks to force him to confess to setting cars on fire during demonstrations.

Many other witnesses, most of them teen-agers, offered similar testimony during the three-day International Conference on Children, Repression and the Law in Apartheid South Africa, which ended Saturday.

It was the biggest gathering ever of blacks and whites from South Africa and senior officials of the African National Congress who are living in exile in Africa and Europe.



The Reverend Trevor Huddleston, left, an anti-apartheid activist, greeted Oliver Tambo, right, leader of the African National Congress, and other activists at an international conference in Harare, Zimbabwe, on the effect of apartheid on children in South Africa.

# In Asia, Population Ups and Downs Pose Challenge

By Michael Richardson  
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — After 15 years of exhorting its citizens not to have more than two children, the government of Singapore has launched a campaign of persuasion and financial incentives to encourage people to "have three, and more if you can afford it."

creased, as well as swelling the number of elderly.

General Lee said that in Singapore, the birthrate had dropped from 1.62 percent in 1985 to 1.44 percent last year, one of the lowest rates in the world.

But it said that a more pressing problem for many of the largest developing countries in Asia was to cope with the consequences of high fertility and falling mortality in the past, which had resulted in an increase in the proportion, as well as the absolute number, of women of childbearing age.

childbearing age would rise by 25 percent to 346 million by the end of the century. In India, the number would grow by 39 percent to 250 million and in Indonesia by 41 percent to 58 million.

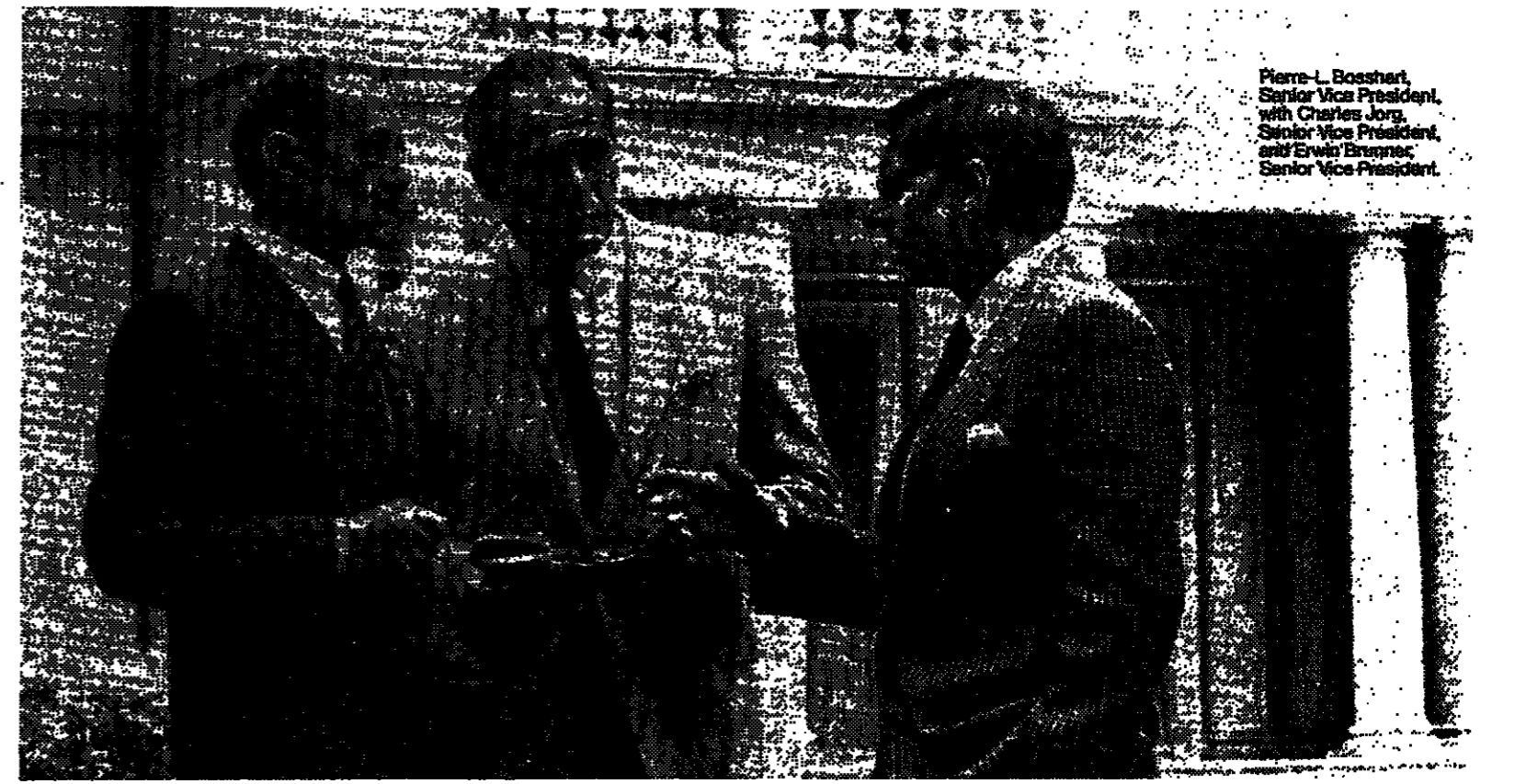
More Japanese are also living and traveling abroad. The strength of the yen makes it increasingly expensive for foreigners to come to Japan, but the number of foreigners visiting Japan nevertheless rose 4.5 percent in the first half of 1987, to 1.02 million.

Change

Debt?

Share the secrets of Cardhu.

Cardhu. 12 year old Highland Single Malt Whisky from the House of Johnnie Walker.



Pierre-L. Bossard, Senior Vice President, with Chairman Jörg, Senior Vice President, and Erwin Brunner, Senior Vice President.

# Swiss Bank Corporation and personal investment.

## How private is your investment?

When you see how vast and impersonal the world of investment has become, the only "private" aspect sometimes seems to be that it's your money at stake. On the other hand, the most private and personal way of keeping your money is probably to stow it away under the mattress. You've got to strike a balance somewhere. And we have. Along with our international team of investment counsellors, we've developed a wide range of investment vehicles for the private client (a selection of carefully selected funds, our own "cash bonds," fiduciary accounts, discretionary portfolios, and so on). So when you're making your own personal decision, you can also make a professional choice. Privately, you'll be glad you did.

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Lints Zürich SBV 2286/2

Jaruzelski Rebuffs Bush On Appeals For Change

By Jackson Diehl and David Hoffman
WARSAW — The Polish leader, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, rebuffed on Sunday appeals from Vice President George Bush for political changes sought by the banned Solidarity trade union...



Prince Jean at the ceremony at the Chateau d'Amboise.

Providing la République With a New Pretender

By Edward Cody
Washington Post Service
AMBOISE, France — The Count of Paris, the chief pretender to the French throne, had 2,000 of his closest friends and supporters by the Chateau d'Amboise on Sunday for a regal little ceremony...

For them, France still needs a crowned head to rise above electoral politics and play the role of arbiter and symbol of the nation. While embracing modern democracy, the royal dynasty proclaims it is ready for the call if France ever feels the need...

1789, no one shouted "Long live the king." On the other hand, no one ruined the morning's elegant tone by shouting vive la République either. As a choir of young boys sang a Te Deum, the royal family moved among its guests to accept applause and congratulations...

The undeciphered meaning of Sunday's conferral on Prince Jean this was a generational jump in succession. This was decided because the count and his son, also named Henri, do not get along. The reason for the dynastic spat, of course, is a woman. The young Henri, Count of Montain, formerly the Count of Clermont until he was demoted by his father...

GULF: Criticism From Weinberger

(Continued from Page 1)
wished to use this for political purposes. Of course, we refused. "We support Solidarity," Mr. Bush said at their meeting began. "We support pluralism. We've been very clear on that."

IRAN: Raid Seen as Lift for Arabs

(Continued from Page 1)
minister of information, Sheik Tariq Moayyed, "and the fact that somebody stopped them was very positive. If you know that people are alert and will stop you, then you might think twice before doing it again."

IMF: Dollar Steady

(Continued from Page 1)
take to seek a shortcut by a further dollar depreciation. Treasury Secretary James A. Baker 3d said Sunday that he had not asked West Germany and Japan at the meeting to take additional steps to stimulate their economies...

CASEY: Woodward Book Lifts a Corner of the Veil on His CIA Operations

(Continued from Page 1)
and conversations with Mr. Casey from 1983 to 1987. Mr. Woodward writes that he never understood why Mr. Casey talked with him. At one point he quotes Mr. Casey as saying, "Everyone always says more than they are supposed to."

Coup Leader Says He May Declare Fiji a Republic

LIU, Fiji — Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka has said that he is prepared to declare Fiji a republic and leave the British Commonwealth, and the first signs of violent protest against his second coup in less than five months have emerged...

ARMS: U.S. Officials Divided on Space Defense Talks

(Continued from Page 1)
proposed limits on the speed of interceptors and the brightness of lasers are "not that far out of the ball park." Another expert said that the limits proposed on the size of space-based mirrors are regarded as more of a problem, while suggested limits on particle-beam and microwave weapons are regarded as overly severe.

Angolan Leader Meets Pope

VATICAN CITY — The president of Angola, José Eduardo dos Santos, met privately over the weekend with Pope John Paul II during a two-day visit to Italy, the Vatican said, but no details of the talks were given. The pope is expected to visit Angola during a tour of southern Africa late next year.

Colombian Leader Meets Pope

VATICAN CITY — The president of Colombia, César Gaviria Trujillo, met privately over the weekend with Pope John Paul II during a two-day visit to Italy, the Vatican said, but no details of the talks were given. The pope is expected to visit Colombia during a tour of Latin America late next year.

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Advertisement for 'The Debtors' by Bob Woodward, including a portrait of Bob Woodward and promotional text.

# World Banking

Commentary

Climate of Caution

## Why 'Adjustment' Is a Shared Burden

By Barber B. Conable Jr.

**W**ASHINGTON — Disturbing economic trends cast shadows over this year's annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Economic growth in the industrial countries continues at a low level, real interest rates remain high and commodity prices remain depressed. Trade barriers, massive payments imbalances and volatile currencies have weakened the economic recovery that began in 1984. And debt burdens continue to undermine economic growth in developing countries.

Without coordinated international action to reverse these trends, per capita income, consumption, imports and investment in most developing nations in 1990 will be well below the levels of 10, even 25, years earlier. It will be disastrous in both economic and human terms if per capita consumption in sub-Saharan Africa falls below its 1965 level and per capita investment in the highly indebted middle-income countries is reduced to 60 percent of what it was in 1980.

Such a disaster would cross international borders and affect the terms of trade and domestic economic growth of the developed countries. In short, if these trends continue, the world faces eventual recession.

Against this unhappy prospect, there is at least one encouraging development. Many governments in developing countries are beginning to move away from rigid, closed and inefficient economic systems toward freer, more open markets and fewer price-distorting internal subsidies.

In Nigeria, for instance, policy reforms are helping reduce dependence on oil for export earnings. In China, greater incentives have been provided to farmers. Mexico is improving the performance of public enterprises and reforming its trade policies.

These adjustment programs, which the World Bank has supported with advice and

financial assistance, are born of necessity, even desperation. But they direct nations toward greater efficiency and they help make them stronger international competitors and better credit risks. At the same time, adjustment can impose heavy social costs. Tangible results and perceptible speed are necessary to mitigate short-term economic disruptions and political upheaval.

While the boldness of these nations' leaders and the boldness of their citizens serve as positive examples to all policy makers, the process of adjustment is far from complete and its success is far from assured. Success also depends on the willingness and political resolve of the industrial nations to adjust their own policies and practices to global realities.

The developed countries must take concerted action to assure significant, steady and non-inflationary expansion of economic

activity. The rising tide of protectionism must be reversed. Urgent and imaginative measures to lighten the burden of debt service are needed, especially for the most distressed countries in the developing world. And the industrial nations must provide substantial new flows of external finance to nourish the developing countries' economic reforms.

Adjustment is a two-way street. All nations have a common interest in mounting and maintaining a coordinated and vigorous response to today's economic crisis. And that response must include steps to promote freer trade.

Increased tariffs, defensive quotas, subsidies to exports and a maze of nontariff barriers are increasingly used to shield non-competitive sectors from free trade. These devices are imposed frequently as "temporary" measures to permit adjustment and

restructuring but too often become permanent fixtures on the global landscape.

The industrial countries are becoming more protectionist in a growing number of sectors after 25 years of progressive trade liberalization of everything but textiles and agriculture. They now have nontariff restrictions on 20 percent of their 1985 imports and maintain tariff rates above 10 percent *ad valorem* on 10 percent of imports.

**T**ARIFFS on exports from developing countries to the United States, the European Community and Japan, remain higher than tariffs on goods that those buyers import from each other. The developed world cannot credibly encourage efficiency and competition abroad so long as it practices this degree of protectionism at home.

Expanding trade, stimulated by a decrease in protectionism, can be one of the main

engines of global economic growth from which all nations benefit. The Uruguay Round of trade negotiations, launched in late 1986, provides the opportunity to roll back the recent protectionist measures. But much can and should be done urgently, outside of these negotiations, to liberalize trade pending the completion of the formal conference.

Free trade is essential to successful development efforts and so too are adequate financial flows to promote adjustment, investment, growth and the alleviation of poverty. The record of the past few years is disappointing. Measured in 1985 prices and exchange rates, financial flows last year were little more than half the total seen in 1980. The decline in private flows, particularly from commercial banks, has been especially

Continued on page 8

## Boom Gives A Hangover To Markets

By Kevin Muehring

**L**ONDON — A joke making the rounds of pubs in the City over the last few months has a number of pub drinkers trading a can of sardines to pass the time. They start at £1, the price quickly rising to £1.10 and £1.25, then spiraling up to £3, whereupon a hapless end buyer suddenly stops the game, opens the can and discovers that the sardines taste positively dreadful.

"Well, what did you expect," says one of his fellow traders, "They were for trading, not eating."

There are probably dozens of bankers and even more fund managers who feel they, too, have been left with the sardines over the last six months of market upheaval. The bottom end of the decline in interest rates was severely tested this spring and summer, marking what many believe is the end of the great bull run of the last five years.

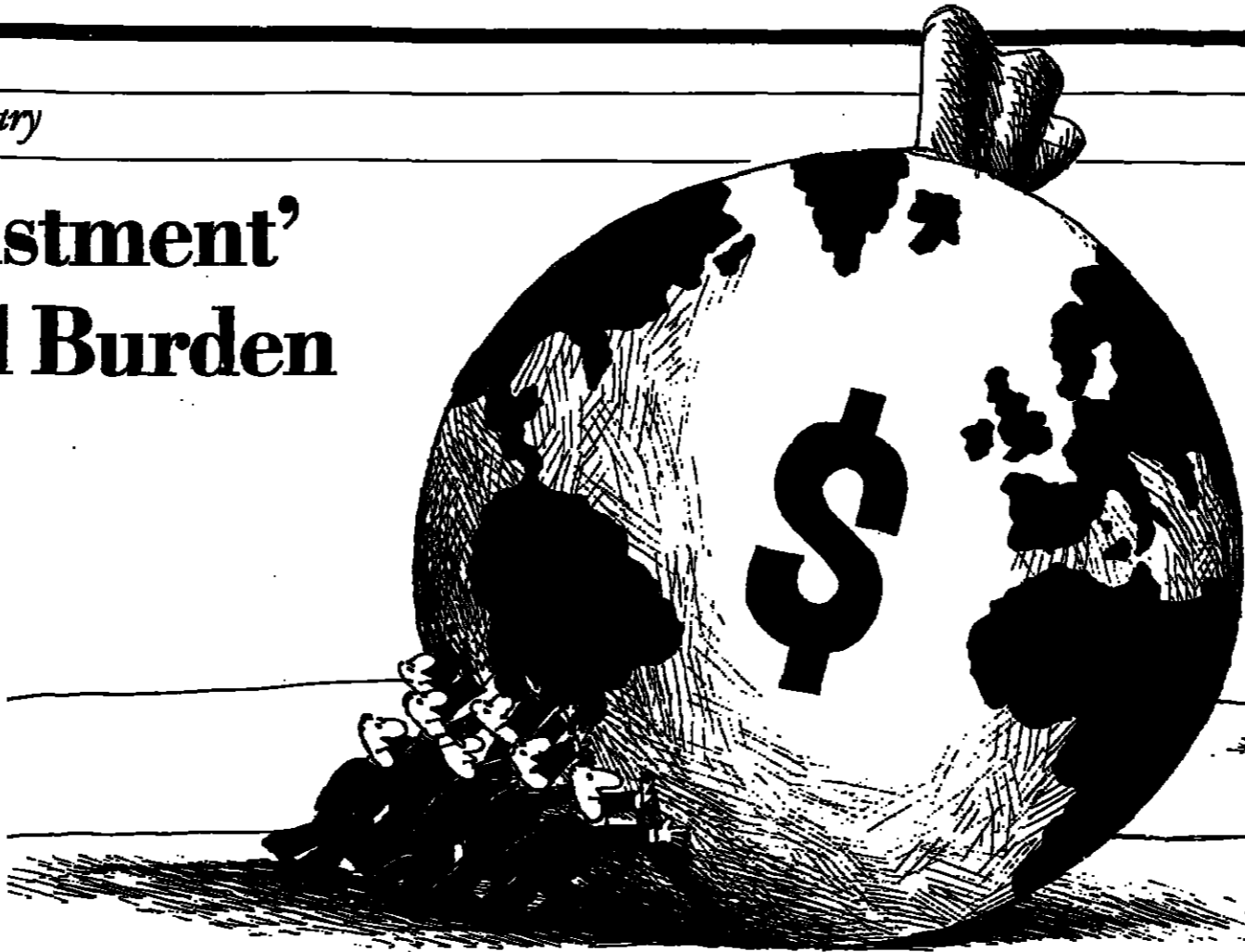
A collapse in the perpetual sector of the floating rate note market early in the year, for instance, was soon followed by a downturn in dated FRN paper. A dramatic reversal in the fixed-income markets in April was repeated in August. Trading losses and portfolio write-offs reached into the billions, especially among the Japanese life insurance companies. For issuers, strong investor resistance brought new issue volume to a trickle and yields higher through the summer.

New issue volume in the external bond market has exploded threefold since 1983, reaching \$167 billion or more in 1985, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

In 1986, the new issue volume surged again, exceeding \$726 billion. But this year, overall new Euro-issue volume dipped for the first time this decade. And the dollar Eurobond market, long the bedrock of the sector, fell to its lowest share of the new issue volume in the market's 25-year history.

In hindsight, it is apparent that a good chunk of the great volume of new paper flowing into the market since 1984 never really reached buy-and-hold end-investors, but was simply accumulated by the commercial banks looking for assets to replace their disintermediated loans

Continued on page 11



Declare Fiji a Republic

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of the Veil on His CIA Opera

### The Debt Dilemma

## Pressures Building For Debtors, Banks

By John M. Berry

**W**ASHINGTON — The proposal by the Brazilian finance minister, Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, to discount his country's huge foreign debt by about 50 percent was quickly rejected earlier this month, but it underscored once again the enormous problem that such debts remain for creditor and debtor alike.

Brazil has made no interest payments on its bank debt, or that owed to several governments, for seven months, a fact that caused many large American banks to make major additions to their loan-loss reserves in the second quarter. Brazil said it simply did not have the money to make the payments and, at the same time, keep its economy growing.

The proposal to discount the

existing debt grew out of a growing feeling in Brazil that it has made all the internal sacrifices it ought to be asked to make in the form of falling income and investment in order to keep up payments on its debt.

Several weeks before the finance minister's visit here — during which Treasury Secretary James A. Baker 3d bluntly rejected his proposal — a group of Brazilian congressmen were in Washington floating the same idea.

The congressmen argued that the banks ought to recognize the market reality in which Brazil's debt was being traded in a thin secondary market at about 56 percent of face value. If the debt were written down accordingly, Brazil would have enough foreign exchange earnings to make the required payments.

After all, they said, the banks had made lucrative profits on their Brazilian lending in the past, and they questioned whether there

Continued on page 9

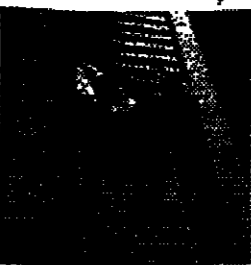
### INSIDE THIS REPORT

**Behind the Losses in U.S.** 8  
Large losses on foreign and domestic loans announce a period of prolonged turmoil in the American banking industry.

**Latin America's Dilemma** 9  
As leaders of Latin America's eight largest debtor nations prepare to meet again, unified action appears unlikely.

**Development in Africa** 10  
Plans for an African summit on debt repayment signal progress at the African Development Bank.

**Asia's Steady Advance** 12



The Asian export boom now entering its third year has transformed economies in the Pacific region. But for banks active in East Asia, it has been a decidedly mixed blessing. Asia's economic strength is forcing banks to find new strategies to deal with the decline in the region's syndicated-loan market and the shift toward "securitized" debt.

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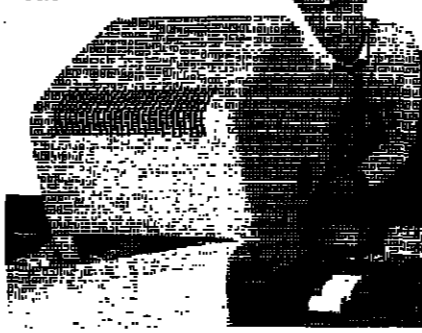


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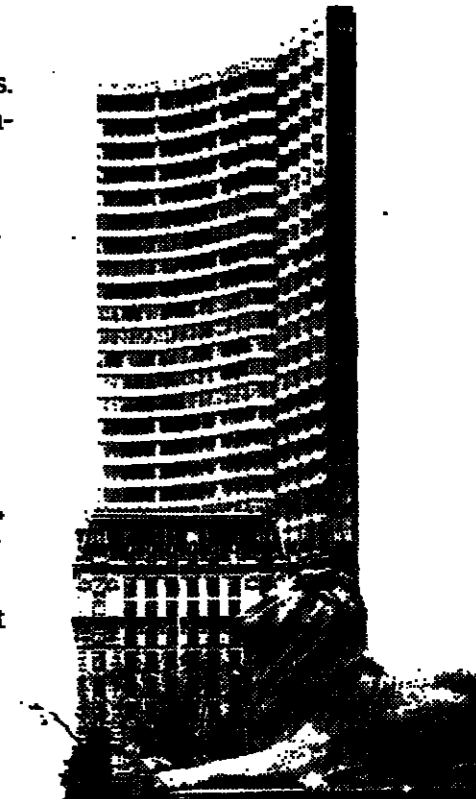
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FIGURES AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1986:

**TOTAL ASSETS:**  
US \$ 168 billion  
**SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY:**  
US \$ 1.6 billion





Debt Swaps ■ Discounts

# Latin America Steps Up Demands for Debt Relief

By William A. Orme Jr.

**MEXICO CITY** — Want to buy some used Latin American debts? The discounts get steeper every day. Peruvian and Nicaraguan paper can be had for less than 10 cents on the dollar, and even the relatively blue-chip loans owed by Venezuela and Chile have fallen from 70 cents to 60 cents since May.

The market's cold-eyed view of the Latin American debt's real value has spurred a growing trade in debt-for-equity swaps. Investors buy and then resell discounted debts through the auspices of the debtor government in exchange for bargain-priced local currencies.

"Debt swaps are not a panacea that will cure the debt problem," Francisco Suarez Davila, Mexico's deputy finance minister, told a group of bankers that gathered here this summer to discuss the mechanism.

Increasingly, the big Latin debtors are arguing that they should not be forced to pay full commercial interest on foreign loans. Interest payments are absorbing half their foreign income, they note, yet the debts have long since been drastically devalued in the real world of the market.

Argentina's finance minister, Juan Sourrouille, a champion of fixed below-market interest rates, is trying to persuade his Brazilian and Mexican counterparts to demand debt relief jointly. Smarting from an election defeat at the hands of the Peronists last month, President Raul Alfonsín's government believes it can no longer afford — politically or financially — to maintain the full servicing of its \$54 billion debt.

The so-called "Big Three" of the Latin debt scene, Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico, together owe creditors some \$265 billion. But the three are already pursuing widely divergent strategies, making a common negotiating front difficult. Argentina and Brazil, pinched by shrinking trade surpluses, are defying the fiscal demands of the International Monetary Fund. Mexico, its debt newly rescheduled and suddenly flush with cash, is complying with IMF conditions and banking in creditors' praise. Brazil, the biggest debtor, has unilaterally stopped interest payments and rejected proposals for another massive Mexican-style renegotiation. Argentina said Mexico publicly reject the moratorium option.

Five years have passed since bankers were jolted by the devastating news that Mexico had stopped amortizing its

foreign debt, the second biggest in the world. Jesús Silva-Herzog, then the country's finance minister, at the time delicately termed Mexico's dilemma "a cash-flow problem."

Since then the cash flow to virtually all of Latin America has ebbed to a trickle of involuntary bank loans and erratically fluctuating export earnings. The crisis has condemned governments to an endless cycle of rescheduling negotiations and pushed per capita income back to the levels of 1970.

A few weeks ago, speaking to Mexican university students, Mr. Silva-Herzog — who left the government last year in a policy dispute — acknowledged that he had erred in viewing Mexico's problem as a temporary liquidity squeeze.

"I confess that we were mistaken," he

City, began demanding radically eased repayment rules.

In the latest of these meetings, the presidents of eight of the largest Latin American debtor nations — Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela — are scheduled to confer in Mexico City in late November. There will be two main items on their agenda: Central America and the foreign debt.

And, as will be noted, the two issues are not unrelated. The \$17 billion debt owed by the five Central American countries to foreign banks is an underappreciated aspect of the area's political crisis, governments there concur.

Demands for debt relief will be issued from Mexico City, but unified action among the debtors appears unlikely. Already this year Mexico has

### Governments have been condemned to an endless cycle of rescheduling negotiations.

said. "It was neither a liquidity problem nor short-term, but rather one with deep structural roots in our economy."

Similar profound structural problems have been acknowledged since then in most of the region's economies. But Mr. Silva-Herzog and other Latin American finance ministers can be understood for seeing the 1982 crisis as a circumstantial difficulty created by an unusual convergence of events.

Mexico's troubles, as well as those of Venezuela and Ecuador, began with a 1981 oil price slide that was compensated with new borrowing rather than budget-cutting. Then, in April 1982, the Falklands War erupted, triggering a freeze of Argentine accounts in London.

Creditors refused to roll over debts to Brazil, Mexico and other big customers that were once routinely rescheduled. In the past five years, nearly all the commercial funds loaned to Latin America have come as "involuntary" contributions to multiyear rescheduling agreements.

The loans were approved largely to ensure the continuation of interest payments on previous debts. Latin American leaders, in conferences ranging from Quito to Cartagena to Mexico

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Shawn Goldenberg/The New York Times

crisis should emerge, the precedents will almost certainly be set in Mexico and Brazil, many experts believe.

Mexico's next government is expected to start new rescheduling talks when it takes power in December 1988. Yet many experts say another conventional multiyear, multibillion bailout would be rejected by Mexico and its creditors alike.

"Banks in Tokyo and banks in Europe are simply not going to come up with that kind of money again," a Japanese banker said. "We don't like the idea of debt relief, but some kind of new servicing plan is probably inevitable."

With Mexico's debts traded internationally at half their face value, some officials say the government should discreetly re-purchase its debts through intermediaries or demand interest-rate concessions reflecting the discount.

"In the next round of rescheduling we have to find a way to use the secondary market discount to our own financial advantage," one experienced Mexican negotiator argued. "Foreign investors are profiting from the discounts with swaps. The banks and their investors recognize the debts' real market value. We are the only ones who are forced to pretend that they are worth 100 cents on the dollar, and it is costing us a fortune."

In the most innovative renegotiation proposal yet advanced by a major debtor, Brazil is now demanding the complete elimination of bank profit margins and is refusing to seek IMF approval for its economic program.

Most radically, it is also asking banks to voluntarily convert half of the country's \$70 billion commercial debt into long-term bonds. The 35-year bonds would pay commercial interest and represent 75 percent of the debt's face value — considerably more, negotiators point out, than the 50 percent that Brazilian paper fetches on the secondary loan market.

Brazilian negotiators have alternatively suggested that some loans could be turned into bonds honoring the debts at full value but carrying low fixed interest rates. In addition, to facilitate the cumbersome process of negotiating with more than 600 banks, Brazil is willing to convert debts into "exit bonds" on more favorable terms for hundreds of smaller creditors who have only tiny shares of the overall debt.

Foreign banks — led by Citicorp, which boosted its cash reserves earlier this year to strengthen its bargaining position with Brazil and other big borrowers — are fighting Brazil's plan.

Debt relief plans would in the long run discourage essential private lending to Latin America, argue Washington's envoys to the region. "Foreign loans have to meet the same requirements as any other loans that a bank makes," said the U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Charles J. Pilliod Jr. "The bank has a responsibility to shareholders. They have to get a return on their investment. The funds that are being supplied to foreign governments come from pension funds and individual investors, not the government. There is no free lunch in borrowing money."

The solution to the problem, U.S. officials contend, is for sovereign borrower nations to maintain their credit ratings and invest loans more productively.

"I think it is naive to think that large governments are going to reduce their debts to any great extent," Mr. Pilliod said. "That doesn't happen anywhere in the world. What we try to do is attain a growth rate that is higher than the debt rate and obtain a better ratio in regard to gross national product."

WILLIAM A. ORME Jr. contributes to The Economist and The Washington Post from Mexico City.

# Debtors, Banks Face Pressures

Continued from page 7

may not have been irregularities associated with some of the loans.

In any event, the congressional group said, the economic impact of further restraint designed to allow full payment of interest on the debt was not a political possibility. Since their visit, the bid price for Brazilian debt has dropped below 50 percent.

Unlike the Brazilian case, debt restructuring agreements were reached earlier this year between the banks and the Mexican and Argentine governments with very large debts.

However, the example of Brazilian nonpayment of interest is sparking new calls in those countries for easier terms from their creditors. Recent electoral gains by an opposition party in Argentina has bankers worried that a demand for concessions could be in the works.

The banks have a right to be worried. The second quarter additions to loan loss reserves was the major factor in causing losses of nearly \$10 billion at about the 50 largest American banks in the first half of the year.

If Brazil and other major Third World debtors were to obtain a 50 percent write-down in the value of their loans, it could force the U.S. government to bail out the banks, most of which are so large that banking regulators feel they could not be allowed to fail.

Even in the short run, the Brazilian example is causing the banks new problems. To offset some of their losses, a number of them, including Citibank and Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co., are planning stock offerings, the prospects for which were not helped by Mr. Bresser Pereira's proposal.

A number of close observers strongly feel that, one way or another, a portion of the debt will have to be written down and that the banks will have to absorb significant losses. Some of the reasons were highlighted in the annual report of the Inter-American Development Bank released this month.

"The Latin American countries have managed to survive the strains of the five-year-old debt and economic crisis of the 1980s, but in many of them falling living standards have begun to threaten both political and economic development," the report said.

In 1986, it continued, regional gross domestic product rose 3.8 percent, and 1.4 percent on a per capita basis. However, per capita GDP fell in half the countries last year and only three of them — Brazil, Colombia and Panama — had a higher per capita income in

1986 than in 1980. "For 13, GDP per capita was at least 10 percent lower in 1986 than it had been in 1980. In seven, it was more than 15 percent lower, and four of those lost more than 20 percent," it said.

The region's trade surplus has gone down as economic growth slowed in industrial nations. With little prospect of more rapid growth in the industrial world, there is no reason to expect that surplus, and the foreign exchange earnings that go with it, to rebound.

That means that the only real source out of which debt service can be paid is a further reduction in domestic consumption and investment. At some point — and some U.S. economists, such as Rudiger Dornbusch of MIT, believe that point has already been reached — sharp cutbacks in investment and declines in real wages will reduce the debtor nations' capacity to produce so that they will be less able to pay their debts rather than more able.

FOR EXAMPLE, gross investment, adjusted for inflation, was 30 percent lower in Brazil last year than it was in 1980. In Argentina, it was 52 percent lower, and for the region as a whole it was down 33 percent.

If it turns out that the debtor nations as a group are either unable or unwilling to service their debts, then someone will have to record more losses. The large money center banks that hold the bulk of the debt are much more well-capitalized than they were in 1982 when the debt crisis struck. Essentially their capital has gone up while their exposure has declined.

But part of that decline has come as a result of a virtual absence of new lending, which was supposed to be a key element in Mr. Baker's plan for resolving the debt issue. Under that plan, the debtor nations were supposed to make changes to improve economic efficiency while the banks stretched out debt repayment schedules and provided new money to help pay for essential imports. Some of the economic changes have been made, but Reagan administration officials say many more steps need to be taken.

Now that interest rates have begun to rise in the major industrial countries, the burden of debt service in Latin America will be going up, too.

There is no new equivalent of the Baker plan in the works because no one has the necessary resources and willingness to fund it. That, and the economic realities confronting the debtor nations, mean that the debt problem will remain for years to come and that it could flare up again into a full blown financial crisis.

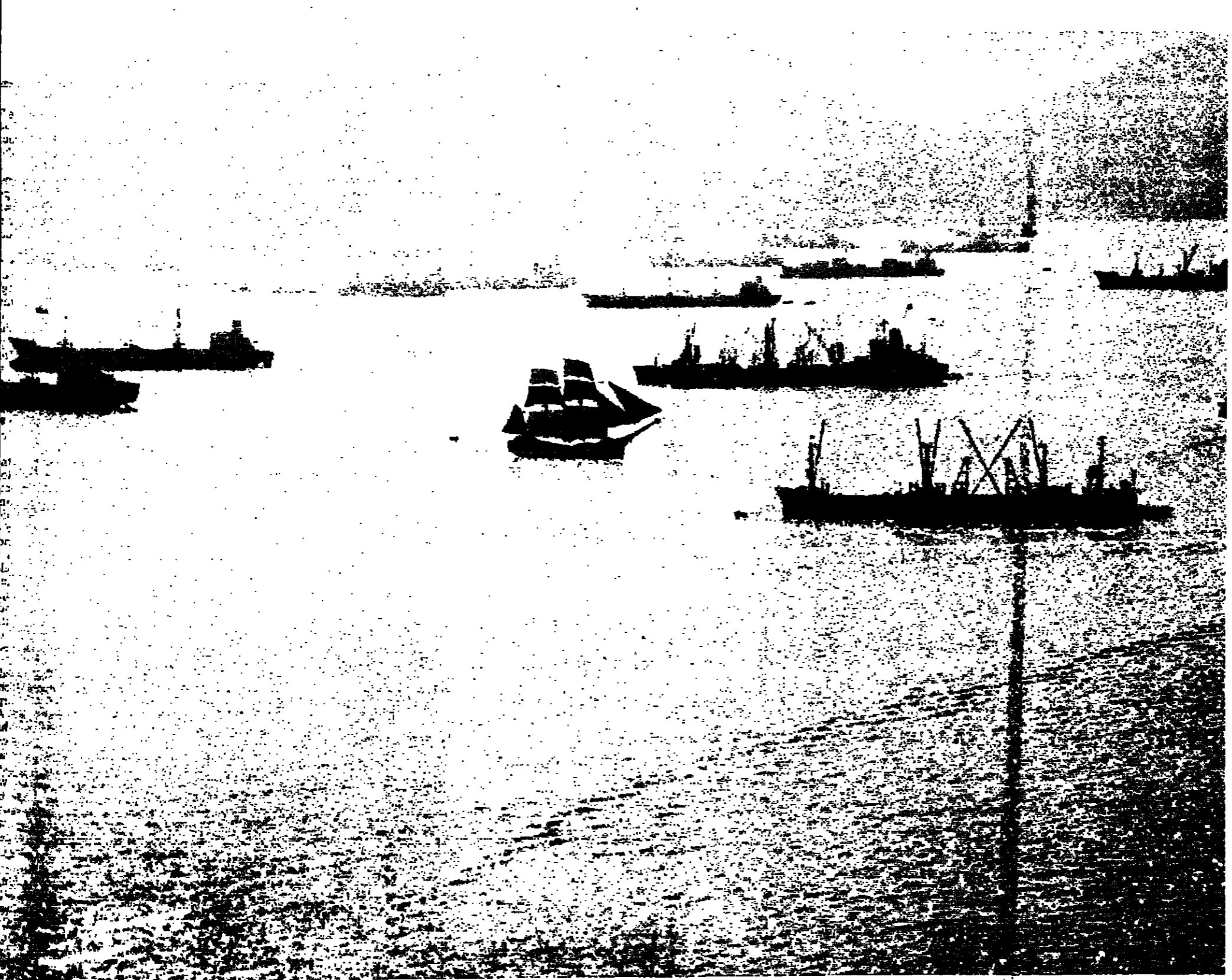
# Aims to Lessen Risk in Lending

...the market's cold-eyed view of the Latin American debt's real value has spurred a growing trade in debt-for-equity swaps. Investors buy and then resell discounted debts through the auspices of the debtor government in exchange for bargain-priced local currencies.

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Climate of Caution

After the Boom, The Hangover

Continued from page 7

and by the Japanese institutional investors. Both began to take increasingly short-term, trade-oriented views toward managing their portfolios, adding to the general volatility of the market.

None of the financial intermediaries, especially the commercial banks, were really prepared for the virtual explosion that has taken place in the international capital markets since 1984. Millions of dollars were spent by the commercial banks to build from scratch some capabilities in securities underwriting and trading while the securities houses, investment and merchant banks scrambled to handle the surging volumes and to spread their operations across the globe.

Many of the banks were apparently equally unprepared for the swift downturn that followed. Dozens of banks have had to rethink their global pretensions. Some dropped out of the race altogether, preferring a purely domestic role; others got out of primary market activity and settled for a more active sales and trading role; still others called it quits in trading.

But the element common to the dozens of banks that just a year ago were aspiring to the global big leagues is the growing realization that what may have been possible in a bull market is no longer realistic when conditions get turbulent and uncertain. Caution, rather than expansion, is the catchword of the late 1980s.

In the FRN market, for instance, where many commercial banks sought to make their mark in securities trading, there were 40 houses active during the market's peak around the turn of the year.

Now, however, there are effectively only five houses — all U.S. investment banks — left trading in all sectors of the FRN market. "American commercial banks are a very trivial factor in the market now," said William Watt, head of FRN trading for Kidder Peabody.

**STREET INVENTORIES.** which at one time stood at \$1 billion plus at the big trading houses, quickly shrank once the market got too choppy. Inventories are perhaps a quarter of what they were a year ago.

"There is no longer the willingness to position inventories," said Paul Denison, Merrill Lynch's head of FRN trading in London. "Even if we get bullish again, it would only be a third of its peak."

Perhaps with even greater potential repercussions to the long-term viability of the Eurobond market, the big-ticker's liquidity amid the turbulence is being wanted and increasingly found the more liquid, though lower yielding, domestic government bond markets more appealing to their needs. Billions of dollars under their management leaked out of the Eurobond market to the domestic markets, or at least less net new funds flowed into Eurobonds.

Financial houses also found innovative but complicated packaged paper increasingly difficult to distribute as investors, especially retail investors, shied away. "What the issuer called a window, a lot of investors discovered was a trap door," suggested Rudolph Eisenstadt-Rothe, who heads asset distribution at Chase Manhattan Bank in London.

The rippling effect of the market changes has uprooted the traditional lineup among the new issue lead managers. Nomura International easily brushed aside market leader Credit Suisse First Boston from its number one ranking.

The Japanese securities houses swept four of the top six rankings, kicking a number of American heavyweights such as Merrill Lynch and Swiss stalwarts such as Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corp. into the backwaters of the league tables.

The aspirations of the commercial banks to muscle their way into the upper tiers of underwriting, except for Deutsche, Paribas, Bankers Trust and Morgan Guaranty, look increasingly remote.

The upheavals in the capital markets have also altered the techniques used to launch new debt. The syndicates of banks participating in a new issue have become much smaller, polarizing into two tiers of the biggest, most powerful houses; currently dominated by the Japanese securities houses, and the much smaller, regional banks that profess to have a retail distribution.

The banks occupying the middle tier of players, where most of the commercial banks lie, are rapidly being squeezed out of the market. Reciprocity, in which the lead manager will cut another house in on a deal, now tends to focus around a smaller circle of powerful co-leads chosen for their ability to distribute a particular kind of paper.

The scores of banks in the middle tier that had participated as co-managers in any case were no longer so willing to accept invitations to deals. Issues thus have fewer market makers, potentially meaning less liquidity and a narrower distribution. For the lead manager, it means an issue is even

riskier than ever when taken on his books.

"There is much more of a genuine syndicate risk now," said David Lough, managing director at County Nat West Investment Bank in London.

Adversary relations and distrust among the financial intermediaries in the primary sector underscore how the definition of success in syndication of a new issue continues to change and broaden.

Success used to mean an issue trading inside its fees during the syndication period. Now, it depends. Losses in syndication may mean profits somewhere else. Many of the American houses, for instance, tend to look at the whole product stream that only begins with launch — a gauntlet to run through — to reach the more profitable activity at the end of the relationship being developed.

"Maybe there will be an M&A deal at the end of the deal," said the head of a London office. A strong secondary market house may come in on a loss-making deal simply to become better informed on where the original bonds are flowing.

Bernhardt Gadow, deputy manager director of the Long-Term Credit Bank's investment banking arm in London, noted that the Japanese houses have long looked at the primary league tables as an expensive marketing tool to develop relations with Western corporate officers.

Dozens of banks have had to rethink their global pretensions.

"We just bought \$20 million of your FRN, and we love to do business with you," Mr. Gadow said. "A lot of the Japanese houses are going for tombstone position not just to build league table position, but to have an excuse to see the borrower."

The net effect of these differing objections, coupled with the sheer domination of the Japanese securities houses, has translated into an almost total absence of profitability in underwriting and even lead managing straight debt issues. To compensate for this loss, the banks have had to rely increasingly on trading and turnover to cover their overhead. And this year that, too, became immensely difficult.

The only way to ensure a decent return this year has been in picking up a slice of equity deal flow that is surging through the markets. Transborder, Euroequity offerings, convertible issues for American corporates, or bonds with equity warrants attached issued by Japanese issuers have been extremely profitable for houses such as CSFB, Morgan Stanley and the Japanese securities houses that hold the lion's share of the market.

"We are trying to be more in equity instruments," said Takao Soma, the managing director of DKB International, formerly Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank International, reflecting a feeling shared by almost every house not already reaping the benefits of being there first.

**FOR BORROWERS,** the changes wrought in the international markets and among the financial intermediaries means it can cost so much more now to raise large amounts of debt that the other capital and credit markets, such as syndicated loans, are becoming more attractive.

Borrowers can also straddle both the credit and capital markets by launching a fixed-income issue priced to yield enough above similar maturing U.S. Treasury paper that it is largely "asset swapped" back into the portfolios of commercial banks.

Asset swaps, which are simply swap techniques applied to the asset side of an investor's balance sheet rather than the liabilities of the borrower, has mushroomed to nearly \$30 billion this year, according to market estimates. Reverse securitization, in that the paper is illiquid and not marked to market every quarter. At least 80 percent of the asset swap paper is finding its way into the portfolios of the commercial banks wholly willing to sacrifice liquidity for a locked-in yield usually a healthy margin over their own cost of funds.

Whether the turbulence in the capital markets this year portends a return to the previous era of "classical" commercial banking dominance of the financial markets is perhaps too far-fetched at this point to suggest.

KEVIN MUKHRING is a London-based contributing editor to Institutional Investor magazine.

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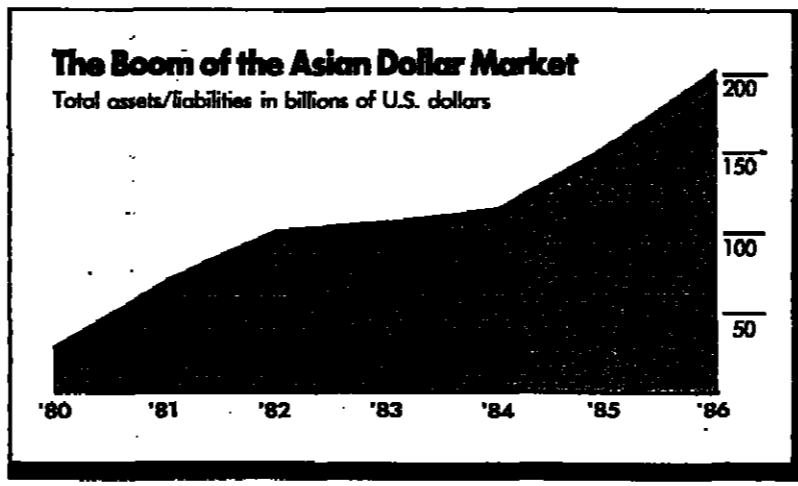
Singapore Holds Fast In Asian Dollar Market

By Narayan Balakrishnan

SINGAPORE — Attempts by Singapore to transform itself into a world-class financial center have had mixed results in many fields, but the one role in which it has always excelled has been that as the funding center for Asia.

have actually led to a spurt in the amount of offshore deposits held in Singapore, and last year the Asian dollar market in Singapore grew at an annual rate of 21.3 percent to touch the \$200 billion mark.

Japanese banks are now among the biggest players in Singapore's Asian dollar market as they find the regulatory environment easier than Tokyo, which has been newly — and only — partly regulated. Most of the Asian dollar funds are held by the interbank market. Last year, for example, interbank deposits totaled \$158.8 billion and loans to nonbank institutions amounted to only \$29.1 billion.



ceeded in projecting Singapore into the international league, Singapore now needs more than Asian dollars if it is to continue to move into the front rank of the financial industry.

Fields such as fund management and syndication of loans are considered "high value-added" items, and so far at least Hong Kong has had higher growth than Singapore in these fields.

The funds in the Asian dollar market are just "raw material" that is recycled to the more sophisticated financial centers. As with other industries, the greater profits go

to those who sell the finished products, not those who supply the raw materials.

Having succeeded so well in the Asian dollar market in the past two decades, Singapore now has to look beyond acting as a mere funding center in its quest for a greater share of the increasingly global financial pie. However, the \$210 billion already accumulated in Singapore's Asian dollar market can serve as a foundation for its efforts to generate the higher value-added activities within its shores.

NARAYAN BALAKRISHNAN is a Singapore-based financial journalist.

Liberalization Brings Rapid Changes in Japan

Assets of corporations and individuals have doubled and trebled in 10 years

ated. As the search for new areas of profit goes on, another hallowed tradition is breaking down. The main business of a bank and a securities house has been strictly divided along the lines of the U.S. Glass-Steagall Act. It still is, but the banks are furious that, through a generous interpretation of the ownership rule, many foreign bank branches in Japan now have their securities divisions attached.

A dialogue between the two Japanese industries is urgently required. The securities houses, however, are most reluctant to begin it. The banks say this is due to reluctance by the smaller houses to open themselves to fierce competition from the big banks, which they could not sustain.

Foreign banks in Japan, just like their domestic cousins, will survive and profit from the changes. Some have decided to go the universal bank route and offer all things to all customers. Others have decided to develop a niche and try to keep it.

Most foreign bankers, however, remain deeply frustrated by the still highly regulated short-term markets in Japan. With no large deposit base in Japan, all foreign banks must raise their funds from the capital markets. They complain of a combination of heavy Bank of Japan control, an outdated demand that all short-term money should be collateralized whether the borrower is a top flight bank or a local institution, and an impenetrable system of effective interest rate control and lending quotas through the cost-of-funds system.

Consequently, they say, they are forced to raise much of the yen they need at spreads critically higher than their Japanese competition.

At the top of the new banking pyramid that is being created will be most of the 13 huge city banks, and the three big long-term credit banks. But do not be fooled by the apparent sophistication and international exposure already presented by Japan's big-name banks.

Dai-ichi Kangyo, Sumitomo, Fuji, Mitsubishi and the other blue-chip banks may be the biggest in the world, thanks to the power of the yen, but their top executives will freely admit that they are still in the process of honing banking skills that less than 10 years ago were quite simply not required in the then conservative financial markets.

This lack of skills in the new banking areas is reaching a crisis point in Tokyo. A good Japanese foreign exchange dealer, one who can sit at his desk and be relied upon to take his own position in several currencies apart from the yen-dollar, and then turn it, is worth his weight in gold.

Beneath the big names are the 64 regional banks. Of these, 53 are rated among the world's top 500 banks. They, too, are moving overseas. The seven trust banks have their own special areas and are perhaps best placed to take advantage of further deregulation in the securities side.

Perhaps the most vulnerable banks are the mutual loans and savings banks, known as the Sogo banks, which rely on personal deposits but have neither the local contacts that the small credit and cooperative savings groups at the bottom of the scale have, nor the economies of scale that big banks enjoy. Hence, the demise of Heiwa Sogo.

Back at the top, international exposure has brought new problems. The city banks and the long-term banks have an estimated \$30 billion exposure to the developing world and \$10 billion of high-risk debt at home.

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TOKYO — Imagine a poor farmer who manages the local cooperative fund suddenly finding himself trading futures options, juggling interest rate swaps and advising major corporations how to place their funds portfolios.

That is precisely what is happening to Japan's banking industry. The speed of internationalization and liberalization of the Japanese financial markets has created a banking industry in rapid transition.

Helping drive this change has been the explosion in assets held by corporations and individuals, which in 10 years have doubled and trebled.

Japanese and foreign bankers and industry analysts predict two main results. First, that Japan's biggest banks will become even more dominant in the world financial scene than they are now.

Second, that within Japan banking will and must restructure itself into a much more service-oriented, broader-based industry. In the process, some of the smaller, or less profitable, banks may go under or merge with their bigger brothers. Sumitomo Bank's recent takeover of the troubled Heiwa Sogo bank offered a sign of things to come.

The well-defined divisions that characterized the Japanese banking industry of the past, giving each type of bank an area of jealously guarded business that underwrote its continued profitability, are vanishing.

At the heart of this dissolution is the deregulation of interest rates, which, in turn, is a major part of the government's effort to turn the yen into a true international currency. Most bankers agree that, although the original impetus for this came through pressure from abroad, the process has reached a critical stage and is running almost under its own momentum.

By the end of this year, rates on all deposits above 10 million yen (\$70,000) should be deregulated. This will mean that only the mass of individual depositors will fall within the regulated bracket. Moreover, even for the small saver, the days of the almost sacred tax-free near-egg at the nation's huge postal office system are numbered. The favored post office has long been a drain on bank deposits.

Competition for deposits has thus eroded the old guaranteed profit margins where each bank could borrow cheap and lend more expensive money. The impetus has been to look for any area of profit that does not involve pure lending, which was the raison d'être of most forms of Japanese banking during the long years of industrial reconstruction and growth.

Foreign exchange, securities dealing, credit cards, investment advice and all bank services have prolifer-

China's Financial Reform Hinges on Diversity

By Robert Cottrell

HONG KONG — In line with China's efforts to spur private initiative and decentralize economic decisions, the challenge for the banking system is to provide more diverse forms of credit to private as well as state-owned enterprises and to allocate credit more in line with market forces and less according to the dictates of central planners.

As a consequence, the country's four big state-owned banks have found their shared monopoly challenged by new commercial and investment banks, rural and urban credit cooperatives and securities markets, all of which aim to mobilize fast-rising domestic savings and lend profitably to expanding urban and rural businesses.

In Beijing alone, 10 privately run credit cooperatives have been established within the past year. Between them, they now account for more than 200 million renminbi in gross assets. Foreign bankers view this pace of change as essential to an expanded role for themselves on the mainland. But most continue to view high-cost offices in Beijing as less a matter of substantial business than of glamour, or personal relationships, which are the key to business success in China.

The question is no longer a matter of new policies, but of implementation," said Tim Williams, group adviser for mainland

The challenge for the banking system is to provide more diverse forms of credit to private as well as state-owned enterprises.

affairs for Schroders Asia Ltd. "But if you're thinking of a big bonanza for foreign banks, that's some way down the road."

Proliferating private enterprises constitute a new customer base quite alien to the big banks' traditional dependence on big state-run customers. In effect, the system has been forced to adapt to an increasingly prosperous rural population that is accumulating savings on which it seeks a competitive return.

In the first six months of this year, for instance, rural savings deposits grew by 21.3 percent to more than 124 billion renminbi. Interbank money markets, set up only last year to enable funds to be reallocated between bank branches with deposit-to-loan imbalances, boasted outstanding loans of 30 billion renminbi by August of this year.

With all major political restrictions on its

industrial borrowers, the Agricultural Bank, which lends to farmers and rural industries; the People's Construction Bank, which provides long-term funding for capital projects, and the Bank of China, for foreign exchange and international business.

The capital markets established in Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan and other provincial cities have primarily dealt in interbank lending, though Shenyang, in particular, has created a thriving bond market, allowing enterprises to borrow money directly from individuals, with a bank mediating only as a selling agent for bonds.

By the end of last year, according to a Beijing news report, joint-stock companies in China had raised 6 billion renminbi in capital through securities issues.

Most daringly, "stock markets" in Beijing and Shanghai have announced trading of shares in local enterprises, though in reality these markets are no more than sales desks in local banks, at which shares are bought but not traded.

The most powerful "new generation" institution is the China International Trust and Investment Corp. (Citic). Essentially an investment bank, Citic has grown from experimental status five years ago into a powerful institution, owning Beijing's tallest skyscraper, providing equity and loan finance to joint ventures and taking an increasingly prominent role in Hong Kong.

It supervises four main commercial banking units with distinct functions: the Industrial and Commercial Bank, which makes short- and medium-term loans to

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| Walwyn Stodgell Cochran Murray Limited           |   | Lévesque, Beaubien Inc.   |
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Financial Instruments ■ Risk Management

Hedging Hones Earnings Edge

Small companies buck currency swings

By Janet Porter

LONDON — A British rock band that toured the United States recently was able to make more money than on a previous visit, even though the group's dollar earnings were down and the U.S. currency was weaker against the pound.

It may not do their image much good or go down too well with their fans, but members of the group were able to return home better off due to some judicious hedging advice from their merchant bankers.

As the range of financial instruments grows almost daily and world markets move toward 24-hour trading, the management of currency and interest rate risks is becoming feasible for many more customers.

Multinational corporations with huge exposures are no longer the only ones that can afford to buy protection against exchange or interest rate movements. As the marketplace becomes more efficient and more sophisticated, the size of viable transactions is shrinking, and it is likely to become even smaller as new products are developed and hedging skills are refined with the help of new technology and improved telecommunications.

During the past six years, the major currencies have moved by an average of 23 percent a

year against each other and, during the particularly volatile market conditions witnessed in 1985, the dollar/sterling exchange rate swung from a high of \$1.4960 down to \$1.0390, a 44.5 percent fluctuation.

The dollar has declined by 45 percent against the Deutsche mark and the Japanese yen over the past 18 months. During the first four months of this year, the U.S. currency fell against the Japanese yen from 158.00 yen to an all-time low 137.25 yen in April.

As the former airline chief, Sir Freddie Laker, found out to his cost, failure to insure against currency movements can be disastrous. He was driven out of business five years ago not because he could not fill his aircraft but largely because he neglected to hedge his huge dollar borrowings and then came horribly unstuck when sterling depreciated sharply against the U.S. currency.

"Exchange rate or interest rate movements no longer need to be regarded as an act of God," said Graham Stewart, assistant director, foreign exchange treasury services at Hambros Bank.

Instead, exporters, importers and others involved in cross-border transactions should be able to exploit the money market instruments now available to give themselves a competitive edge in world markets. If all else is equal — if two companies are producing an identical product for the same cost — then the manufacturer that has made the cleverest use of financial tools available in order to offer the guaranteed best price will win the orders.

For small or medium-sized companies that have little experience of international business, the real problem is not just identifying the risk but also finding out what is available and understanding the banking and market jargon.

Companies need to recognize, for example, that there are three separate kinds of currency risk — a transaction exposure that arises out of a normal cross-border trading activity; a translation exposure that arises from the need to revalue in terms of a company's reporting currency those assets, liabilities, income and expenditure that are denominated in a foreign currency, and economic exposure that arises from a company's commitments to specific currencies and currency environments.

The International Chamber of Commerce identifies nine basic techniques for managing exchange rate risks, ranging from the matching of receipts and payments in the same currency; multilateral netting; leading and lagging; through to the use of forward currency transactions; futures; options; swaps, and official export/financing insurance agencies.

The real test, though, is knowing how to apply and combine the various products in order to achieve the most effective result.

The management of currency and interest rate risks has become so advanced and sophisticated that products are more or less tailor-made to a particular customer's needs, with financial advisers developing and refining new techniques daily.

Bankers say they are coming close to being able to cover all risks — the decision the customer has to make is whether he is prepared to pay for virtually full cover or whether it may be preferable to hedge only part of the exposure. But as new financial futures and options contracts are launched on the world's exchanges and dealers refine and build on these products to meet particular customer needs, money market fluctuations need no longer present the sort of nightmare that they have done in the past.



Sir Freddie Laker

Furthermore, as the world's financial markets evolve, so the range of products will continue to grow.

Likewise as trading volumes expand, more cross-trades should soon be possible directly between currencies rather than through the U.S. dollar, enabling transactions to be completed more quickly and more cheaply. There is also scope for improvement in the variety of interest rate hedging instruments. The broadest choice of tools for guarding against adverse interest rate swings are available in dollars and sterling, but at present are more limited in Deutsche marks, Japanese yen and Swiss francs.

JANET PORTER is the European bureau chief for The Journal of Commerce.

Borrowing Dips On Euromarkets

Special to the IHT

LONDON — The development of new markets and new financial instruments has slowed in recent months and, most importantly, major borrowers, especially those looking to refinance existing debt, have not been able to find terms attractive enough to issue debt in the same volume as they had previously.

As a result, while borrowing in international markets, notably the Eurodollar market, has been slightly higher in dollar terms than it was over the same period last year, when the declining value of the U.S. currency is taken into account, it has in fact been slightly lower.

Along with the near drying up of the new issue market in Eurodollar floating rate notes following last winter's liquidity crisis in the perpetual sector of the market, it has been the decline in dollar financing overall that has accounted for this. Japanese investors have become the mainstay of the Eurobond market, and they have consistently shied away throughout 1987 from U.S. corporate Eurobonds, for many years the bread and butter of the market.

A notable exception to the Eurodollar market's lack of activity has been the torrent of issues by Japanese corporations with equity warrants attached, about \$15 billion of which have been launched so far this year, with more than half of them ending up in Japanese investors' hands. Roughly one quarter of all Eurobonds issues were launched during the first half of this year were equity related; convertible into stock or with warrants to purchase stock attached.

Another has been the shorter end of the maturity spectrum, an area where the Euromarkets are still relatively underdeveloped. The Eurocommercial paper market has continued to grow rapidly, and outstandings in the Euroarea market overall are now estimated to be as high as \$40 billion.

The Euro-medium term note market — providing paper of two- or three-year maturities — has over recent months seen increasing investor demand against a background of an uncertain interest rate outlook.

The Kingdom of Spain announced a \$1 billion medium-term note facility in July, and major facilities previously arranged for prestigious names like Peppico and General Motors Acceptance Corp. have been activated.

Before this market came into being last year, the only two Euromarket securities available to investors were bank certificates of deposit. For issuers, funding costs below the London Interbank Bid Rate make this an attractive market.

But as for the mainstream, five-year plus maturity Eurobond market — apart from fading instruments such as warrants and the development of synthetic instruments launched as repackaged floating rate notes — the Eurobond market has been characterized by investors jumping from currency sector to currency sector, following the foreign exchange markets.

The yen especially as well as the Deutsche mark, sterling, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand dollar markets have seen periods of relatively high new-issue volume as a result, while remaining vulnerable to periods of tame and falling prices.

The demands of the major sovereign borrowers on the international capital markets have shrunk. The United Kingdom borrowed a total of \$6.5 billion with Eurodollar floating rate note issues last year in order to shore up the government Treasury's reserves to play in the foreign exchange markets before the general election last June. Opportunities for financing such as those are no longer a feature of the international markets.

Other major sovereign issuers are simply borrowing less. The Kingdom of Denmark borrowed a total of \$1 billion in a single day from the Euromarkets last year, but its borrowing requirement for this year is only about \$4 billion compared to 1986's total of \$7.25 billion. This is largely due to an improved balance of payments position.

It is a similar story in Sweden, which this year will be far less active simply because it has over the past three years succeeded in refinancing all of the high-interest debt it incurred earlier. The same applies to other major sovereign and supranational borrowers.

FOR the Euromarket houses, this slowdown has meant a refocusing of priorities. The international equity markets and domestic government bond markets have attracted most attention, although in the case of the latter the experience of the U.K. government gilt-edged market since "Big Bang" last October has proved that low government funding requirements leave room for only a few major players in each market.

The international equity market is certainly booming, however. During the first six months of 1987, about \$30 billion of internationally syndicated equity issues were launched, and while there was a notable decline in the case of Fiat's giant \$2.1 billion deal, that total compares with \$33 billion for all of 1986.

But for many houses the result of rising interest rates and the retrenchment of both fixed and floating rate bond markets has curtailed the beginning of an austerity period that even a year ago would have been unthinkable to the notoriously well-paid and bonused Euro-marketiers.

Some houses have dropped out of market making in certain sectors altogether, while others simply are beginning to cut back on staffing and recruitment.

Internationally, there are prospects for the development of new lending. It has been estimated that China may borrow up to \$40 billion in international loan and bond markets over the next five years.

There has also been some hope rekindled that a solution to the massive problem of Third World debt might involve the creation of a market for debt-to-equity swaps and a large and liquid secondary market for the trading of debt marked down to its market value.

Banks, Thrifts Buoy Securitization Markets

By Linda Kessler

NEW YORK — This year has seen yet another watershed in asset-backed securitization, the fastest growing market segment in terms of volume of the U.S. capital markets.

Up until this year, this \$16 billion market has been dominated by captive finance companies, like General Motors Acceptance Corp. But now banks and thrifts are emerging as some of the most innovative players in the sale of these securities, accounting for more than half the \$6 billion issued in the public market so far this year.

That kind of growth is posing new challenges for bank managements, since selling off parts of a bank portfolio was unthinkable only a few years ago. So far, U.S. banks have successfully bundled automobile loans and credit card receivables into public securities and sold them to investors for a profit.

But the diversity of their loan portfolios is likely to lead to more innovative offerings as bank managements look at other portions of their commercial portfolios, like second-mortgages, mobile home loans, and even their worst performing loans to the Third World as a source of new funding.

"Securitization gives bank managements more tools to manage the size of their balance sheet and make their capital work more effectively," said Patricia Jehle, a director at Salomon Brothers, which has managed several asset-backed deals for banks in the public market.

"It's a brave new world for banking since securitization makes loans a tradable instrument," said George J. Voja, a vice president of corporate management at Bankers Trust. "As securitization becomes more and more competitive, banks will make less from originating loans."

For the most part, asset-backed securitization is uniquely a U.S. market phenomenon, driven in part by a regulatory environment that has also urged banks to strengthen their capital levels. By packaging loans into a security generally backed by a certificate or note, banks wipe those loans off their books and use the proceeds from the securities sale to make new loans. Banks also make a profit from the securities sales since they receive a higher interest

rate on the loans than they pay to investors who bought the security.

Bank of America has bundled about \$2 billion worth of its credit card and car loan receivables into six separate securities, which it sold in the public market over the past 16 months. The California bank was able to shed those loans off its books and use the proceeds from the securities sales to make new loans as well as inject an additional \$140 million into its capital reserves.

"That's money that otherwise would not be there," said Townsend Walker, a vice president at Bank of America.

"Third World loans bring an additional sovereign risk feature to securitizing assets and that introduces even more complexity into what is complicated to begin with," said Miles Federman, a senior vice president at Standard & Poor's, the rating agency.

To get an investment grade rating, securities backed by Third World debt would have to carry hefty insurance, he added, perhaps more than 50 percent of the face value of the underlying loans. That would also make the security more costly to investors. By contrast, for securities backed by mortgages and car loans, a 5

percent to 10 percent guarantee will get a triple-A rating.

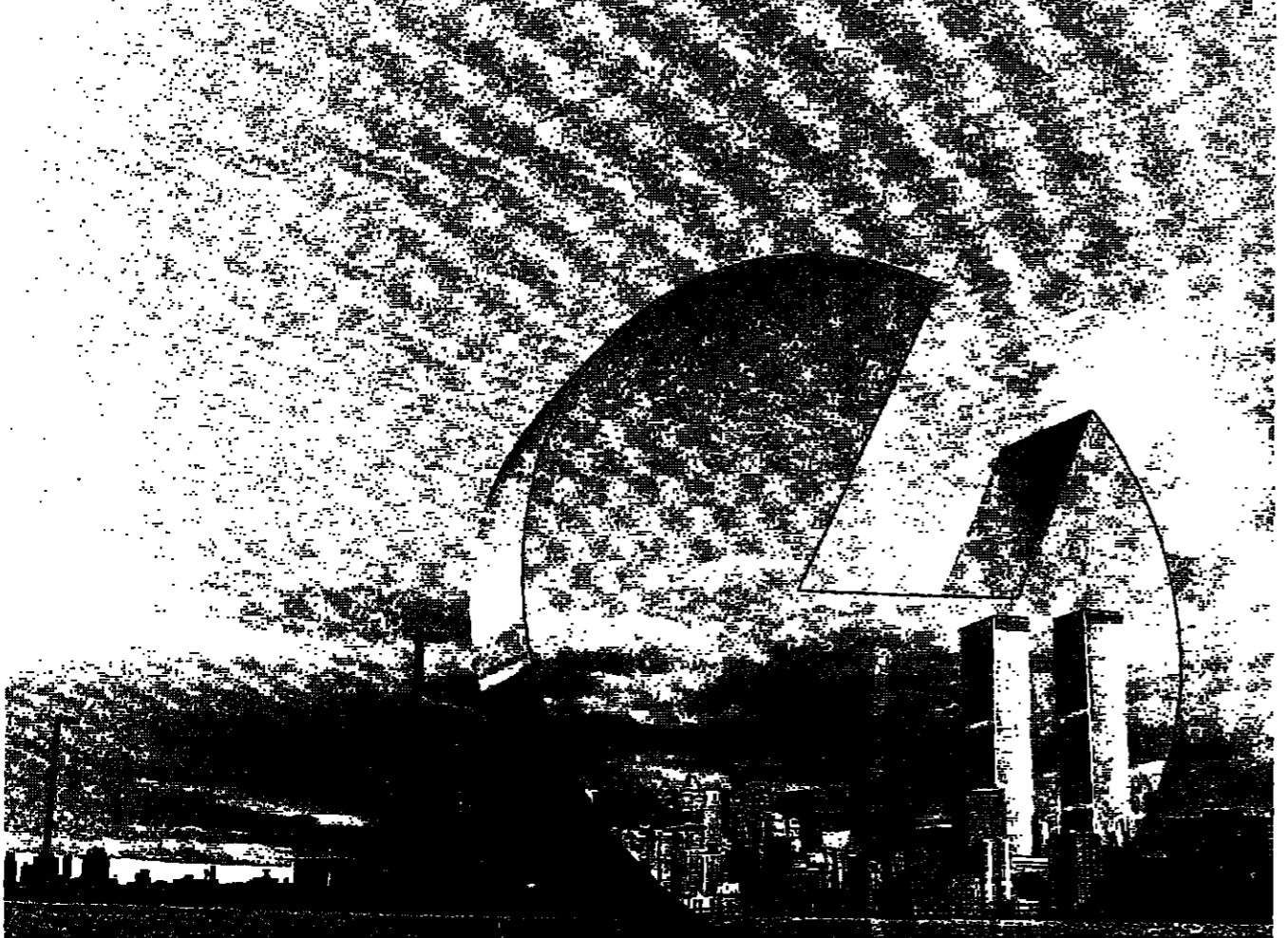
In fact, the trouble and expense of securitizing assets has deterred many of the nation's banks from entering the market. Transactions can take up to six months to complete.

"Bank managements are worried that they have to be computer experts to do these deals," said Andr  Korovych, a director of asset backed financing at Drexel Burnham Lambert.

Larger banks, like Bank of America, also look to refining their own securitized deals so that they may one day both structure and distribute such financings for other banks and corporations. "It's a way for us to tap a broader group of investors," said Bank of America's Mr. Walker.

Last July, banks were given the green light by regulators to underwrite and deal in asset-backed securities. But they are not allowed to use their new authority until Congress lifts the moratorium on their new underwriting powers on March 1, 1988.

LINDA KESSLAR is a financial journalist based in New York.



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Vertical sidebar advertisements on the right edge of the page, including "EUROBOND", "Taking Clients in", "Currency", and "Last Week's".





Weekly International Bond Prices

Provided by Credit Suisse First Boston Securities, London, Tel.: 01-623-1277. Prices may vary according to market conditions and other factors.

Main table containing various bond price listings including Dollar Straights, Euro Straights, Yen Straights, DM Straights, American Exchange Options, and ECU Straights. Each section lists issuer names, currency, and price/yield data.

Euromarts At a Glance

Table listing Euromart rates for various currencies and maturities, including Euro, Yen, and other international currencies.

Weekly Sales

Table showing weekly sales figures for various financial instruments and markets, including Euro, Yen, and other currencies.

Libor Rates

Table listing Libor rates for different currencies and maturities, such as 3-month and 6-month rates.

Wall Street Review

Table providing a review of Wall Street activity, including NYSE Most Active and AMEX Most Active securities.

NYSE Diaries

Table detailing NYSE trading diaries, including volume, high, low, and close prices for various stocks.

AMEX Sales

Table showing AMEX sales data, including volume and price information for traded securities.

WestLB advertisement for Fixed Income and Equities Trading, featuring contact information for Düsseldorf, London, Luxembourg, and Hong Kong offices.

American Exchange Options table with columns for option type (Call/Put), strike price, and price/yield. Includes a section for DM Zero Coupons and ECU Straights.

INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS advertisement listing various job titles, salaries, and employers such as Grace Industrial Chemicals and League of Red Cross.

The Daily Source for International Investors advertisement, promoting the International Herald Tribune as a key resource for global market news.

New International Bond Issues

Compiled by Laurence Desvillettes

Table with columns: Issuer, Amount (millions), Mat., Coup. %, Price and week, Terms. Includes sections for Floating Rate Notes, Fixed-Coupon, and Equity-Linked.

Malaysia Sees Palm-Oil Sector Threatened by U.S., EC Moves

By Michael Richardson International Herald Tribune

TROLAK, Malaysia — All around Ramli bin Yusop's modest wooden house, as far as the eye can see, oil palm trees planted in neat rows cover the most tropical earth with a quilt of dark green foliage.

Exports of palm oil extracted from the fruit earned Malaysia \$1.5 billion in 1986, about 10 percent of its total export revenue. Palm oil is the country's third most valuable export after crude oil and natural gas and timber.



Lim Keng Yaik

counts for 30 percent of all Malaysian land under cash-crop cultivation and the livelihood of thousands of small farmers, it is under threat. Proposals on vegetable oils by the United States and the European Community could undermine the Malaysian industry and that of other Third World producers, Mr. Lim said.

to oppose the EC and U.S. measures.

The ASEAN countries account for the overwhelming proportion of the world's palm oil. Indonesia, which accounted for 17 percent of global production in 1986, is the second-largest producer after Malaysia, while the Philippines is the biggest exporter of coconut oil.

Mr. Lim said that although palm oil accounted for only about 4 percent of edible oil consumption in the United States, its share had been growing at the expense of more expensive soybean oil both in the United States and in the international market.



An oil-palm plantation worker holding ripened fruits.

Mr. Lim said that although palm oil accounted for only about 4 percent of edible oil consumption in the United States, its share had been growing at the expense of more expensive soybean oil both in the United States and in the international market.

Montedison Heavily Oversubscribed

By Carl Gewirtz International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Montedison SpA's request for an \$800 million loan to help finance the acquisition of Hitachi Inc. of the United States was more than four times oversubscribed last week.

The success provoked fierce criticism within the banking community that Citicorp, which organized the loan, had set unnecessarily generous terms on the one-year facility. Interest is set at 3/4 point over the London interbank offered rate.

at which time the syndicated credit can be drawn.

Finance officials at chemicals group Montedison reject criticism that they paid too much to banks in the syndicated credit. They report that there was a bandwagon effect when banks realized the transaction would be a success and that the amount allocated to participants would be greatly scaled back from the underwriting commitments.

drawings in other currencies will be set at Libor flat.

Elsewhere in the market, Data General Corp., a U.S. computer manufacturer, is seeking a \$200 million revolving credit for three years. It will pay a commitment fee of 3/16 point on any amount not used and a 1/4 point over Libor to draw the loan.

EUROBONDS: Banks Take Long View, Help Clients Through Bad Times

(Continued from first finance page)

varants to buy gold at a price of \$463 an ounce, the price then prevailing in the spot market. But that attracted little demand outside of Switzerland and the paper traded at a discount from the offering price of 24 points.

dollar and Canadian interest rates decline. But the four new Canadian dollar bonds were too much for the market to bear. Without some compelling reason, such as swapping into shorter maturity, higher quality, higher yielding paper, investors are unwilling to look at new fixed-rate investments in any currency.

A 500 million French franc offering from Solvay, the Belgian chemical company, drew little interest outside of France and the Benelux countries, despite the fact that real, or inflation-adjusted, interest rates in France are now the highest available.

ing stockholders pre-emptive rights. Japanese issuers remained the most active but drew little support. Notable among these was Minolta Camera's sale of 200 million DM bonds carrying no interest rate at all.

Fed Panel Backed Fighter Money

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve System committee that controls growth in the nation's money supply voted in August for a slightly tighter policy than it approved in July, the Fed has revealed.

Using 10-year government bond rates and the level of consumer price increases reported in August, Salomon Brothers estimates that real interest rates in French francs are at 6 1/2 percentage points, versus 6 1/4 points in marks and Canadian dollars and 5 1/4 points in U.S. dollars and yen.

Interest rates in both West Germany and Japan firmed last week, rolling those bond markets as well as the dollar market. Although government officials said it was incorrect to read the firming as a signal to further tightening of monetary policy, analysts were unwilling to dismiss the moves, especially as they came on the eve of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund.

Bonds Show Strength, but Caution Reigns

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The mood in the credit markets has turned to one of caution as investors remain on the sidelines awaiting the results of the meeting this weekend of the Group of Seven finance ministers.

U.S. Consumer Rates

Table with columns: Rate, Date. Includes items like The Consumer Rate, Bond Buyer 30-Bond Index, Money Market Funds, etc.

U.S. CREDIT MARKETS

both abroad and in the United States. Bonds closed slightly higher Friday on expectations that the major industrialized nations would reaffirm their support for the dollar at the talks.

U.S. Consumer Rates

John Candela, managing director of fixed-income securities at Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co. "The sooner we break some key technical areas the better."

Kuala Lumpur Delays New Brokerage Fees

Reuters

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — The Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange has said it will postpone the adoption of new brokerage commissions because members could not agree on the phasing of a revision.

PEARSON: Murdoch Seen as Latest Corporate Raider

(Continued from first finance page)

Pearson's top management this week. It would be hard to imagine a more vivid clash of executive styles and backgrounds than that between the relentless Mr. Murdoch, an Australian-born entrepreneur, and Pearson's chairman, Lord Blakenham, a scion of the Pearson clan, and an avid bowhunter.

Goodbye Mom & Pop

Small businesses which have flourished for years with conventional methods are being supplanted by technologies which can make fortunes for the informed few and wipe out the non-investing majority.

Mr. Murdoch has sometimes been accused by journalists who previously worked for him of molding news coverage to suit his political views. The most striking turnaround has been at Penguin. In 1978, Lord Blakenham brought in an American, Peter Mayer, to run the group.

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NASDAQ National Market

OTC Consolidated trading for week ended Friday, Sept. 25

Table with columns for Stock Name, Price, and Change. Includes sub-sections for 'New/Net', 'CAYM', and 'Mutual Funds'.

Table with columns: Sales, High, Low, Close, Net. Lists various stock symbols and their corresponding market data.

Table with columns: Sales, High, Low, Close, Net. Continuation of stock market data from the previous table.

Table with columns: Sales, High, Low, Close, Net. Continuation of stock market data from the previous tables.

Mutual Funds

Figures as of close of trading Friday, Sept. 25

Table listing mutual fund names, their net assets, and percentage changes.

Table listing mutual fund names, their net assets, and percentage changes (continued).

Table listing mutual fund names, their net assets, and percentage changes (continued).

Table listing mutual fund names, their net assets, and percentage changes (continued).

Chicago Exchange Options

Figures as of close of trading Friday, Sept. 25

Table with columns: Option Price, Calls, Puts. Lists call and put option prices for various stocks.

Table with columns: Option Price, Calls, Puts. Continuation of Chicago Exchange Options data.

Table with columns: Option Price, Calls, Puts. Continuation of Chicago Exchange Options data.

# EMS: Other Members Expected to Challenge West German Dominance of Policy Through Control of Exchange-Rate Mechanism

(Continued from Page 1)

style anti-inflationary policies of which the Bundesbank approves.

For the past few years, with inflation widely regarded as the major threat, they have been content to do so. Increasingly, however, France and some of the other members are becoming more concerned with fighting slow growth and unemployment and less with the continuing overvaluing of the West German mark.

If these countries follow their own priorities and assert their independence, the risk is that they will lose the credibility that their policies have gained from their close association with West Germany. That would put downward pressure on their exchange rates.

At the same time, low West German growth and inflation rates,

and the downward drift of the dollar, are enhancing the mark's hard-currency status.

What France is effectively saying to West Germany, in the words of a senior EC official, is this: "We have got to move on from the previous position, in which you made policy and we adapted to it. We deserve credit for having been good boys for the last three years. This means some relaxation on your part, but monetary stability is still obtainable at a higher level of growth."

In practical terms, France has been asking for early, unconditional help from the Bundesbank to support weaker currencies when they come under speculative attack (implying less West German insistence on policy changes in the weaker-currency country), plus greater coordination of national

economic policies (implying a stronger voice for the non-German members).

This month's changes have gone several steps down that road. West Germany has indeed agreed to make marks available to other countries for currency support at an earlier stage and in greater quantities, and to intensify economic policy coordination in the EC's monetary and central bank committees.

But the Bundesbank is making it clear that there will be limits to its largesse, and that the currency support will not be automatic, as France wanted.

Jacques de Larosiere, the governor of the Bank of France, has been saying that he nevertheless sees in the currency agreement "a presumption of automaticity," a

phrase that has legal overtones in French.

As with most compromises, the negotiating partners are each reading their desired outcome into the final wording. West Germany says that the agreement will mean little

The crucial factor will be how far both Bonn and the Bundesbank are prepared to take their hands off the wheel.

nomination that is due to start.

The crucial factor will be how far both Bonn and the Bundesbank are prepared to take their hands off the wheel.

West Germany's historic inflation phobia has not disappeared overnight. The West German authorities are still afraid that a relaxation of discipline in the system will lead to inflation elsewhere that will be only too easily exportable to West Germany.

For France, however, the agree-

ment represents at least the thin end of the wedge. After a pause for breath, it is not unlikely that Paris will come back for more.

For that reason, the official suggested, the West Germans are reluctant to make too many concessions at any one time.

It is not a constant daily battle by France against West German dominance, the same official said. But the French want British allies in their overall campaign. In the French view, there is now absolutely no reason why Britain should not bring the pound into the system.

Advocates of British EMS membership claim that both the technical and political conditions are right for the long-awaited move, which the British government has promised "when the time is ripe".

The widely shared view in Brus-

sels and London is that only the personal reluctance of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is now in the way of sterling's entry.

Nigel Lawson, the British chancellor of the Exchequer, is believed to be a convert, as is Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England.

Among the reasons for Mrs. Thatcher's continuing opposition are fears similar to those already visible among some of the system's existing members, such as concern about the loss of national sovereignty.

In that respect, her desire to maintain her own government's control over the British economy at least partly justifies the classic French complaint that Britain's fundamental commitment to Europe will continue to be in doubt

until the country finally makes the pound part of the EMS.

Most member governments appear confident that the latest changes to the system are steps in the right direction. Many economists believe that they could make formal exchange rate changes, or "realignments" within the system, less frequent.

Officials at the European Commission, the EC's executive body, say they have detected a more relaxed attitude by Karl-Otto Pöhl, the Bundesbank governor, towards his partners' concerns. The commission believes that governments and central banks now trust each other enough to make the new arrangements work smoothly.

As Mr. de Larosiere puts it, "It is a matter of good faith." But there is as yet no final answer to the key question: Does West Germany really yet trust its partners to run their own economies?

## NASDAQ National Market

OTC Consolidated trading for week ended Friday.

Sales In	100s	High	Low	Close	Chg	Net
IBM	100	125	125	125	0	0
AT&T	100	110	110	110	0	0
GE	100	100	100	100	0	0
Westinghouse	100	90	90	90	0	0
General Electric	100	85	85	85	0	0
IBM Corp	100	125	125	125	0	0
AT&T	100	110	110	110	0	0
GE	100	100	100	100	0	0
Westinghouse	100	90	90	90	0	0
General Electric	100	85	85	85	0	0

Sales In	100s	High	Low	Close	Chg	Net
IBM	100	125	125	125	0	0
AT&T	100	110	110	110	0	0
GE	100	100	100	100	0	0
Westinghouse	100	90	90	90	0	0
General Electric	100	85	85	85	0	0

Sales In	100s	High	Low	Close	Chg	Net
IBM	100	125	125	125	0	0
AT&T	100	110	110	110	0	0
GE	100	100	100	100	0	0
Westinghouse	100	90	90	90	0	0
General Electric	100	85	85	85	0	0

Sales In	100s	High	Low	Close	Chg	Net
IBM	100	125	125	125	0	0
AT&T	100	110	110	110	0	0
GE	100	100	100	100	0	0
Westinghouse	100	90	90	90	0	0
General Electric	100	85	85	85	0	0



SPORTS

Europe Beats U.S., Keeps Ryder Cup

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
DUBLIN, Ohio — Seve Ballesteros won the match that blunted a belated rally by the U.S. team Sunday and provided Europe with its first victory on American soil in the Ryder Cup golf competition.



Seve Ballesteros, left, and Tony Jacklin, the European captain, couldn't have been happier.

Crenshaw, who broke his putter in anger after three-putting No. 6 (thereafter he putted with a 1-iron), won three straight holes on the back nine against Eamonn Darcy of Ireland, and was even going to the 18th. But Crenshaw drove into water, hit his third into a bunker and made bogey. Darcy won the hole and the match with a par.

But he bogeyed the 11th and 13th, then went 2-up again when Strangé bogeyed the 14th. They halved the next two holes in par — and that was all Ballesteros needed to win the match and retain the cup. Tony Jacklin, Europe's captain, called it "the greatest week of my life."

Nebraska Escapes on Day Of Ties and Trouncings

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
NEW YORK — Two of U.S. college football's four showdowns Saturday ended with Tennessee tying Auburn and Louisiana State tying Ohio State, and a third tie was looming until quarterback Steve Taylor gave Nebraska a victory over Arizona State with 34 minutes left.

The fourth game left Arkansas fans fit to be tied, because their team was trounced by Miami. Nebraska 35, Arizona State 28; In Tempe, Arizona, Taylor, who lost two fumbles that set up touchdowns for ASU (2-1), scored from three yards out after Nebraska (3-0) sped 70 yards in four plays, with 1-back Keith Jones's 62-yard run putting the ball at the eight-yard line.

Taylor's fumble at the Nebraska 15 had led to Darryl Harris's four-yard run and a 21-21 tie in the third quarter. Taylor's second fumble, again at 15, was turned into a one-yard run by Harris that made it 28-28 with 4:55 left in the game. Auburn 28, Tennessee 20; In Knoxville, Tennessee, Bobby Humphrey ran a 57-yard play to set up a 120 to play and Phil Reich kicked the extra point as Tennessee (3-0-1) tied Auburn (2-0-1). Tennessee made it 20-13 on Reich's 24-yard field goal with 7:46 left, then stopped Auburn on its three on the kickoff, forced a punt and went 56 yards for the touchdown.



UCLA's Ken Norton, standing Arizona ball-carrier Reggie McGill on his head after a short gain. The Bruins won, 34-24.

Tigers Beat Blue Jays in 13th to Salvage Last Game of Series

The Associated Press
TORONTO — Kirk Gibson's 13th-inning single drove in the winning run Sunday and the Detroit Tigers stayed close in the American League's East Division race by beating the Toronto Blue Jays, 3-2, to avert a sweep of their four-game series.

SUNDAY BASEBALL

Sutton got his 320th victory in the majors, in his first relief appearance since 1980. Orioles 9, Yankees 5; In Baltimore, Rene Gonzalez broke a 5-5 tie with a double as he rallied for five runs in the seventh to beat New York and end an eight-game losing streak.

Fast Start, Fine Finish Help Cards

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
CHICAGO — Dan Driessen hit a two-run home run in the first inning Saturday and Ken Dayley struck out Leon Durham with runners on second and third to end the game as the St. Louis Cardinals defeated the Chicago Cubs, 3-2, to take a 3½-game lead over New York in the National League's East Division.



St. Louis Cardinals' Dan Driessen, left, celebrates with teammates after hitting a two-run home run to help the Cardinals beat the Chicago Cubs, 3-2.

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

Friday's and Saturday's Major League Line Scores

Table containing baseball scores for Friday and Saturday across various leagues including American League, National League, and Major League Standings.

Football

Selected College Results

Table containing selected college football results from various conferences and divisions.

Tennis

Men's Tournaments

Table containing men's tennis tournament results from various international events.

Golf

Ryder Cup

Table containing Ryder Cup results, including scores and player statistics for the European and U.S. teams.

European Soccer

English First Division

Table containing English First Division soccer results and standings.

Auto Racing

Spanish Grand Prix

Table containing auto racing results, specifically the Spanish Grand Prix.

Major League Standings

Table containing major league standings for various baseball leagues.

AL-MANAR... MARRIAGE... ANNOUNCEMENTS... VICTORY... MAPPIN & WEBB... Various small notices and ads on the far left edge.

# Sifting the Facts of Life and Death

**International Herald Tribune**  
LONDON — Rebecca West, George Bernard Shaw said, wrote as brilliantly as he did but much more savagely (she on the other hand, admired Shaw's style but found his thinking weak). Time magazine called her "The World's Number 1 Woman Writer" in a 1947 cover story and Kenneth Tynan, no mean stylist himself, said of her journalism that her mastery of the long analytical sentence was unrivaled in the history of ephemerall literature. Rebecca West lived from 1892 to 1983 and was a novelist, critic, historian, reporter and Dame of the British Empire. She also died a lot.

**MARY BLUME**  
half because she was very aware of herself as a work of art as well as of her art as a work. She thought of her life as a bad book and as an artist that drove her mad," says Victoria Glendinning, whose very good book, "Rebecca West: A Life," was published in London by Wiedenfeld & Nicholson and comes out in New York (Knopf) next month.

Biography, like good fiction, Rebecca West once wrote in an exalted vein, "comes down to the study of original sin, of our inherent disposition to choose death when we ought to choose life." By the 1960s she observed, "the number of people reading and writing biographies must exceed the number of people suffering from the common cold."

At first I thought I would go mad but it got quite exciting. It's concentrated, like a stock cube instead of a soup.



Biographer Glendinning: scrupulous and affectionate.

One of the best of the excellent British biographers now at work, Victoria Glendinning specializes in large scale, overpowering, well-connected literary ladies: stately galleons whose progress she briefly and elegantly arrests before setting them back on course. She is a friendly woman with a big laugh and a clever face whose devotion to her demanding and sometimes fearsome subjects has always been tempered by the real-life demands of husband, home, four sons and a dog.

"I could only write really well at night because all through the children's childhood was the only time I had and I was conditioned that during the day you carried bundles of clothes from one room to the other and helped people off with their Wellingtons. I do the equivalent of that still in the day — I find it really hard to work in the morning, it seems an illicit act."

She married her Spanish tutor, Oliver Glendinning, during her second year at Oxford (she is now married to the Irish writer Terence de Vere White) and had her sons quickly and easily. "I couldn't go on having children, after four it's not necessary, a bit peculiar, although I didn't know it to be, really." She did some writing, became a psychologist, social worker and was an editorial assistant at the Times Literary Supplement when George Weidenfeld asked her if she would like to write a book.

Her biographies are scrupulous, affectionate, detached and very funny when she finds the quavers and cracks behind the facade. She gives her subjects the attention they feel they deserve but not always for the reasons they think they deserve it. The publisher commissions her biographies and possibly her one mistake was to say yes to Edith Sitwell, who turned out to be a strangely ghostly subject.

"It was like being thrown a ball and I knew if I dropped it now I'd never be asked again; I said I'd like to write about Elizabeth Bowen."

In 10 years she has written four major biographies, beginning with Elizabeth Bowen in 1977. Edith Sitwell and V. Sackville-West followed in 1981 and 1983, and now with Rebecca West launched she is very privately trying her hand at fiction. "I've done something different with each book and I've learned something new with each book and the Rebecca book taught me more than anything else. I think I've taken it as far as I can. I'd have to explode it into something different and maybe that's not for me to do."

Her biographies are scrupulous, affectionate, detached and very funny when she finds the quavers and cracks behind the facade. She gives her subjects the attention they feel they deserve but not always for the reasons they think they deserve it.

retrieving, but her own pleasure is to go behind the facade of a successfully achieved person. "I do enjoy the rich canvas. I like to tell a story and to feel more like a storyteller than a scholar."

"She isn't so much a prickler of balloons as a student of what keeps them up, although she wonders if betrayal is not inevitable." Oscar Wilde said Judas is always the biographer. I take these people who have their public image and sort of upkick their knighting and show the sore places under the silk. Maybe I am Judas and maybe what I do, which is supposed to be so wonderful and oh so sensitive, maybe it's really Judas and why can't I leave them outtopped up."

The demand for biographies is unquenched. "A lot of people tell me that as they get older they read biographies more and I think there's got to be something to do with death. Every biography ends in death. Every life ends in death. I think people think how is it going to be for me, how was it for them? The facts of life are the facts of death and it's the whole thing written in a book whereas in our lives we can't see an end. It's frightening and comforting at the same time."

The deaths of her subjects have always come hard. The worst — surprising because at times Glendinning clearly gets fed up with her unremittingly tempestuous subject and her increasingly maidly husband — was the death of Vita Sackville-West. "I just did not want to write down that she had died. If you look at the last page of that book, I keep having little sections about something else. I couldn't bear to write it. You feel when you write the word she died that you've killed them again. Because until that time you've resuscitated them, they're walking around for you, you've brought them back."

Lost lives, the lives of the unknown are, she thinks, worth writing.

## LANGUAGE Words With a Certain Familiar Ring

**WASHINGTON** — "Say it ain't so, Joe," moaned the dismayed supporters of Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr., the former Democratic presidential hopeful, in tones evocative of the fans of baseball's Shoeless Joe Jackson when it was discovered that their idol had faithfully sold out to the gamblers in the 1919 World Series.

The cause of the Biden followers' dismay was borrowing at length and without attribution the rhythms, thought patterns and sometimes the words of another orator.

"Why is it that Joe Biden is the first in his family ever to go to a university?" asked the candidate in a rousing finale to a debate at the Iowa State Fair. "Is it because our fathers and mothers were not bright? ... Is it because they didn't work hard, my ancestors who worked in the coal mines of northeast Pennsylvania and would come up after 12 hours and play football for four hours?" These rhetorical questions were answered with a ringing "It's because they didn't have a platform upon which to stand."

As an old hand at the speechwriting dodge, my first reaction was to wince at the formalistic upon which construction. Although it enabled the speaker to conclude with the strong word stand, the ostentatiously careful grammar conflicts with the common-man point: a more forceful conclusion would be "no platform to stand on," with spoken emphasis on stand.

Maybe my familiarity with rhetorical borrowing has left me insensitive to the shock of recognition. I remember listening to John F. Kennedy's inaugural, with his stirring line "In your hands, my fellow citizens, more than mine, will rest the final success or failure of our course." I had to admire the way the writer Ted Sorensen evoked the rhythm of the line in the Lincoln first inaugural. "In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow-countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war." (Kennedy subtly corrected Lincoln's redundancy of fellow-countrymen.)

What's wrong with such evocation? Winston Churchill, writing his ringing 1940 speech about defending his island by fighting on the beaches, in the streets, etc., recalled George Clemenceau's defiance in 1918: "I shall fight in front of Paris, within Paris, behind Paris." (Clemenceau, in turn, was paraphrasing Marshal Ferdinand Foch on Amiens.)

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